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The Edition, 25th of October, 2017

DIT News Society

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THE EDITION



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DIT counselling waiting list - Pg 3

Volleyball facilities a must- Pg 24

Get to know your Societies - Pg 15



Grangegorman Canteen's prices under scrutiny - Page 5

DIT to introduce Student Levy

By John Patrick Kierans

DIT are planning to introduce a student levy of up to €150 to pay for a number of student services in Grangegorman.

The long awaited campus, which is not expected to be fully complete until 2022, will see students pay the added fee in order to use facilities such as the planned new sports hall.

Other student areas the institute is planning to build include a bar, along with a bigger clubs and socs space.

Paul Horan, Head of Campus Planning for Grangegorman, told the Edition: "We've been discussing a levy with the student bodies and the student's union for a while.

"We haven't been able to say for certain what spaces we will be getting, because the student accommodation has been a long while in gestation so we don't want to go out to the student body for definite until we can say here's the proposal. It's going to take another year

to get to that point," he added.

"We hope the levy will include social and recreational space, which would be on the ground floor of the student accommodation and a new build in the first phase of a new sports hall.

The levy is being introduced because the Irish Government won't fund sports recreational spaces that colleges build.

The Government only pay for educational spaces that will benefit students.

Mr Horan continued: "Basically for the medium term, in order to develop sports recreation space, the national policy is that the Government doesn't pay for that."

Continued 2



Student Fee March // Nikki Murphy

STIs on the Rise

By Kasper Delaney-Petersen & Robert Geoghegan

Sexually Transmitted Infections are on the rise in DIT, according to figures from DIT GP, Doctor Brendan Clune.

The greater danger around the spread of STIs stem from many factors that have arisen in recent years. Students are "forming different relationships" to previous years, with students refraining from "secure relationships". This has lead to an increase in gonorrhea, chlamydia, syphilis, and other quite

serious infections. "I think...with STIs there is a huge increase I suppose...but there is no particular epidemic or anything like that". The rise in STIs in both DIT and nationwide has also been attributed not specifically to more people getting infections, but to the adaptation of modern technology allowing for more efficient diagnoses.

Continued 2

NEWS

DIT counselling waiting lists

Long waiting periods to be combated in new moves with new 'access point'

3

DIT still without a student drugs policy

6

Leaving the Liberties behind

What effect will DIT leaving the Liberties have on local businesses?

7

Picture Essays

See the first picture essays of this year's Edition, following the Student Fee march.

8

FEATURES

Hurricane Ophelia

How would it be to spend a whole day in a pub during a storm?

10

Be Sound Be Well

11

CULTURE

Societies Spotlight

Get to know your societies this year

15

That time in Coppers...

When a memorable night in Coppers turns into a nightmare

16

SPORT

Fit2Go - Here come the girls!

DIT's Fit2Go launches exclusive girl's club

23

Sports council nominations

24

NEWS

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DIT to introduce Student Levy

“They pay for educational spaces to do with the delivery of teaching but sports and recreational facilities aren’t paid for”, he added.
“So in all the other institutions the big sports and recreation spaces have all been developed over the years by student levies. We’re hoping to introduce a similar process,” Horan went on to say.
“One of the biggest projects we’re working on is trying to deliver student accommodation on campus. We have the potential to deliver up to 2,000 beds, so we’re looking at approximately half of that to go out in a similar way to the private sector, asking the private sector to come in and design, build, operate and maintain them for a lengthy period,” Horan added.
“But in return we would get back the ground floor for free if you like. Financially, given the values, we reckon we can get most of it back as an empty box or shell. So to fit those out we’ll need a considerable fund of money,” he added.
“We also want to develop an indoor sports. So that will provide space for a good permanent home for things like a student bar, clubs and socs space, DITSU space and some sporting functions,” Horan added.
“The way it varies compared to other

colleges such as UCD, they’re on their third tranche of their 10 to 15 year levy, in which they build their first phase of sports, they did another levy for their student centre, they’ve introduced another levy where they built their swimming pool,” Horan went on to say.
DITSU President Boni Odoemene believes that if a levy is introduced, students should have their own say on what the money is spent on.
He told the Edition: “In regards to a proposed student levy for student facilities on Grangegorman, this is something that DITSU have been negotiating on behalf of the students of DIT for a number of years now.
“The plans we are aware of is for a student levy to be introduced that would pay for the building and operations of a brand new student center.
“Your Student Council passed a policy in 2016 laying out the terms and conditions of levy negotiations. For only when completed may a proposal for a levy be brought forward to Council for approval.
“A number of these conditions have been completed, however there are still conditions that are a cause for contention.”
He continued: “Most notably is the condition around the governance of

the levy monies. This condition calls for ‘all monies received by DIT be placed under the management of an agreed legal entity, the board of management of which will contain a majority of students appointed in a manner to be agreed between DIT and DITSU.’
“We believe that as this is student money being spent, students must have a majority say as to how it ought to be spent and where it’s being spent, and unfortunately the institute see things differently. This is only one example of where there is disagreement between DITSU and DIT in relation to the proposed introduction of a student levy.
“This year we have set up a Student Levy Working group that has been tasked in ironing out the technicalities and disagreements around the negotiations for a proposed student levy.
“I am hopeful that this will allow us to take some positive steps forward.”
A spokeswoman for DIT reiterated that the Department of Education do not provide funding for sports and student centres.
She said: “To fund these important facilities, students in all Irish Universities have so far contributed through what is known as a student levy. For example, over the last five years Dundalk IT; Maynooth University; University

of Limerick; and Dublin City University have passed referendums on student levies in order to develop new student facilities on their campuses.
“The UCD Student Centre and the UCC Sports Facilities have been funded by student levies, while the UL Student Centre is currently at planning stage following a recent referendum.”
But in order to introduce a levy, students will have to vote in a referendum.
“A decision to introduce a levy in order to provide excellent student facilities for future generations of DIT students would require a democratic decision of the student body, backed by students voting in a referendum.
“DIT has developed a levy proposal with the objective of generating a fund of €20 million. This would secure the development of a top class student centre and indoor sports facilities (such as SU Offices, Student Media Centre, Black Box Theatre; Multi-Purpose Venue, Campus Bar and Sports Facilities: Sports Hall, Gym, Fitness studios, Strength and Conditioning suites, changing facilities, and Climbing Wall). “There has been no formal agreement as yet with student representatives around the introduction of a levy in DIT but discussions are on-going.”

STIs on the Rise

The total number of students screened for the year 2015/2016 was 490, with 269 being “symptomatic”, which is where the patient suspects that they might have something going on. A further 221 were “asymptomatic”, which is where the patient doesn’t have any problems but would just like to have a routine test.
Dr. Clune went on to say, “I think our figures are similar to any other colleges. I don’t think DIT students are doing anything radically different from Trinity students or UCD students or anything like that. I think think they are largely the same.
We want to encourage students to act responsibly, if they do take a risk they should get a check, if they have symptoms they should come make an appointment without any embarrassment”.
To raise awareness amongst students is also very important, Dr. Clune said, and that while many events in college help to alleviate the spread of STIs, the more people that go in to get checked the easier it will become to curb further outbreaks in early days. “We just need to keep raising awareness. We recently just won an award for our ‘no umbrella campaign’... We want to highlight that sexual diseases are common, that there is effective treatment for it and that we are accessible for students, there should be no embarrassment around it”.
The clinic in DIT is a satellite clinic with Saint James’ hospital and that’s where DIT get their clinical expertise. While it costs €20 for a screening in the DIT clinic, the advantage of the DIT clinic is they have the medication on campus. Which is an advantage instead of someone going to a doctor and then getting a prescription.

Dr. Miriam Daly, the Director of the Women’s Health Programme in the Irish College of General Practitioners, said that “In 2016, 31% of all cases were diagnosed in general practice, including 50% of all female cases”, in relation to an alarming increase in gonorrhoea. “Up to week 46, 2016, there have been 1,494 cases of gonorrhoea

among men compared with 934 for the same period last year, an increase of 60%.
Where data is available, 55% of these cases have been in men who have sex with men (MSM).
There were 52 cases in women in November 2016, three times the number of cases in women in October 2016”.
DITSU purchases almost 9,000 condoms every year, and they are freely available from any SU office. Practicing safe sex is imperative to stop the further spread of STIs around campuses.

If any of the points raised in this article affected you, please contact:
Gay Switchboard Ireland: 01-8721055, ask@gayswitchboard.ie
Visit thinkcontraception.ie
Health Service Executive Ireland: 041 6850300, hselive@hse.ie
DIT Clinic locations and contacts:

South City	North City
Room 2051	Linenhall Lodge
Second Floor	Henrietta Place
Aungier Street	Dublin 1
Dublin 2	(Opposite Bolton St. College)
Ph: 01 402 3051	Ph: 01 402 3614

EDITORIAL

Nikki Murphy & Dan Grennan

This year The Edition celebrates 10 years as an independent newspaper, funded by News Society and The Society’s office through student contributions. Although we’ve had a turbulent beginning to the start of this academic term, we are finally up and running. Every year up until now, the editorial role of the paper has been filled by a journalism graduate or a masters student.
After being approached about the position we both had a lot to think about. We are both 3rd year students of journalism, and having worked on The Liberty (the local newspaper for The Liberties) previous to this, we knew the challenges and the hard work it would take to run The Edition.
With no-one applying for the editorial role, it was decided there and then that, we would not let our student newspaper go. After many discussions with our classmates, we formed a dedicated editorial team between us. Any money paid would be split evenly between us (€100 each).
On the basis of the strength of the group we had worked with on The Liberty, we knew we had a solid team with one main focus; to make The Edition as diverse as we could. To work with all departments within the institution that is DIT. To be forever transparent and diverse.
Our aim is to make the paper as inclusive as possible, our list of 28 contributors reflects this.
After struggling with an arduous handover and no template we are proud to say, The Edition in print and online is back in action. Special thanks go to Anita Conway from the Society’s office who worked her backside off to make this happen. To News Society for all their support. To John Kenny and Harry Browne for allowing us the use of the Liberty template and all their advice. To Ian Kilroy and Harry Browne for all their advice, and to you our readers who without your student contribution this paper would not be possible.
On behalf of us all here at The Edition:
WE BACK BABY!!!

New DIT counselling services to combat long waiting lists

Hajar Akl

DIT's counseling service has introduced different "access points" this year to help more students access the service and avoid long waiting lists.

Ms Catherine Bolger, one of the psychologists of DIT's counseling service, said students had to wait weeks to see a counselor last year.

This year, a new Live Chat and Walk In Slot have been made available everyday be-

of 3.8 full time staff, plus one Head of Service. "That's never going to meet [the demand]," she said.

She said there has been an increase in demand for the service but a shortage in staff, but she said interviews are ongoing and two more full time staff will join by the end of 2017.

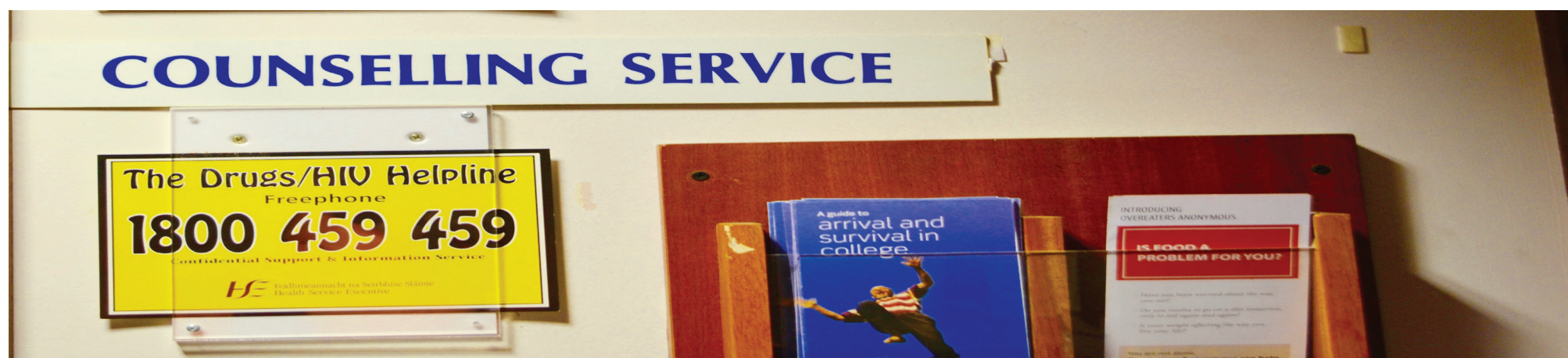
The new staff members, expected to start in January, will increase the counseling

Health society, is currently being seen to by one of the counselors in DIT. He said he was "lucky" that he didn't have to wait "four or five weeks" to be seen by a counselor and given an assessment.

"I know that I needed counseling myself and I found the form online and that's kind of where I started... I waited about two weeks before I got the assessment, which for a free service I suppose is decent but it's not ideal," said Mr Freeman.

Roisin O'Donovan, Vice President for Welfare in DIT's Student Union (DITSU) said, "[There's been] long waiting lists for years, it's really good that they're trying to do something new... It's good that they're trying a new method."

She said she will "constantly push" for new ways of accessing counseling in DIT.



tween 10 am and 11 am, where students can avail of the service without needing an appointment.

The Live Chat makes it possible for students to chat with a counselor via Google Chats about any questions or queries they may have.

The Walk In Slots are only available in Aungier Street, because it has the "largest traffic", and allow students to meet counselors between 10 and 11 am without booking.

"We were so busy last year trying to meet the needs of students... it was impossible to keep going with scheduled appointments," said Ms Bolger.

Ms Bolger said sometimes students would only have short queries and would only require quick information, so having to wait weeks defeated the point of the service.

She hoped the new services would provide different access points for students to seek counseling faster.

By providing instant access, "we're hoping it could work for students that may not need to engage in long term counseling," she said.

Ms Bolger, who is based in Mountjoy Square, said DIT's counseling service is currently operating with the equivalent

service's workforce to 5.8 people, which would make a "massive difference" particularly as demand for the service increases around exam time.

Ms Bolger said the new access points have made it possible for students to get immediate answers to their queries.

"What we've noticed already is we have no waiting lists, so people can access the service on the day or the next day," she said.

Ms Bolger said there has been an average of 10 students accessing the Walk In service on a weekly basis. "We anticipate that this will rise as it is a new service," she added.

"Also stats from last year show that 77.5 new students accessed the service every month, in addition to the ongoing students which averaged about 120 per month over all the campuses. That's almost 200 students per month," she said.

Ms Bolger said that "in addition to our normal service of assessment and counseling" they will also be running a number of workshops for students this year on a range of topics, "such as anxiety, resilience, forming good life habits, etc".

She said they will be running workshops on different campuses in hopes to "minimise travel [for students] as much as possible."

Ciarán Freeman, chairperson of the Mental

"There's a stigma attached to these services that I don't think is removed yet... With the counseling service, students are not using that ideally but at the same time if they were to use it ideally, the service wouldn't be able to cope. It's overstretched as it is at the moment," he added.

He has been in counseling for a few weeks now and said he has benefited greatly from the service.

"Personally speaking, the benefit's been immense. The issue that I'm in counseling for is quite complex and it would limit my daily life if I didn't get it seen to. The fact that I got such immediate attention is fantastic and I've never been more grateful to a service in my life."

Mr Freeman said that despite this, the range of functions provided by the service is not very diverse. For example, they don't offer group counseling sessions.

"They literally offer [only] one to one counseling... weekly, bi-monthly, every month... Personally I get weekly appointments but people like me put a massive strain in the system because we take up a slot every single week from that one counselor. They don't offer anything like group counseling sessions, again there's not an awful lot of counselors so they can't offer a wide range of one to one sessions either."

"There are going to be two more full time counselors in place," said Ms O'Donovan. "[However] while pushing for counseling; it's important as well to try have alternatives."

She said there will be training and workshops for students so they can "self-manage" their mental health.

"We need to lobby for more counseling and better service," she said, adding that they will try to also incorporate more training workshops "to educate students to mind their own mental health".

Ms Bolger said the Walk In slots are available every day for "any student who needs to be seen urgently".

She added: "The staff in the counselling service are all Chartered Psychologists or Registered Psychotherapists and as so are fully trained and experienced in recognising and assessing for every serious issue that may come through the door."

You can contact a counselor via Live Chat between 10 am and 11 am everyday on counsellingservice@dit.ie To get more information, follow @counsellingDit on Twitter.

If you have been affected by anything in this article, help and support is available by calling the Samaritans 24-hour helpline 116123 or emailing jo@samaritans.org.

NEWS

DIT's New Gender-Neutral Bathrooms Garner Mixed Reactions

Maryam Madani

New students of DIT Aungier St may have noticed that most of the disabled bathrooms have been transformed into gender-neutral ones, and now bear a four-symbol inclusive sign. The change was unveiled this September and there are now 47 gender-neutral bathrooms across ITs five campuses. This includes at least seven in Aungier St, with one on each floor, according to Buildings Manager, Colm Gillen.

While to some students the change seems to have appeared overnight, in reality it has been in the pipeline for around 3 years. Torny Glavin, who was Chairperson of DIT LGBT Society 2014/15 and now works for Transgender Equality Network Ireland (TENI), was one of the main campaigners for the gender-neutral bathrooms, alongside an ongoing push from DITSU, its consecutive Welfare Officers and the LGBT Society.

Gender-neutral bathrooms with similar signage are already in place in UCD, DCU, Trinity College, UCC, IT Tallaght, CIT and GMIT.

There are at least a dozen transi-

tioning or transgender students in DIT and 15% of the student body is of the LGBT community. Ali Hilley, Vice-Chairperson of DIT LGBT Society gave a statement on behalf of the group saying "We think the gender neutral bathrooms are a major step forward for DIT, and are disappointed by the negative feedback received. We would also like to point out that for anyone who thinks negatively about these facilities that the bathrooms in their own homes are unisex or gender neutral."

The negative feedback in question comes mainly from a post announcing the new toilets on the DITSU Facebook Page, posted on September 14th. Of the 300+ comments, many were supportive, but an alarming amount showed opposition and a lack of understanding as to the purpose of the gender-neutral bathrooms.

DITSU has announced plans for an Education Campaign on the topic, which it aims to launch at the end of the First Semester or the start of the Second Semester.

Perhaps the only concern with

the new toilets is with where they have been placed, whether there will be increased traffic, which might make it more difficult for wheelchair users and those with hidden or ambulant disabilities to access the facilities they need. "If I had a concern that's where it would be: would it be disadvantaging people in wheelchairs who need to access those toilets," said Nita Whelan, Head of the Student Counselling Service.

One of the gender-neutral toilets in Aungier Street has already been reverted to a purely disabled toilet after causing difficulties for a wheelchair user.

"We're monitoring the situation, we are working with the Disability Service, and if it creates a difficulty for any student or any member of staff we'll take action on that," said Brian Gormley, Head of Campus Life. "We have some students and staff who would be quite dependent on them being accessible toilets"

Speaking of students who were transitioning, transgender, or nonbinary, he said "It's a recognition of their status and of their

existence".

Roisin O'Donovan, DITSU Welfare Officer 2017/18, welcomes any questions to be emailed or directed to her. "I think it's fantastic, I think the more questions from students asking about it helps to give it more clarity".



1 in 5 Irish women experience sexual assault

By Léa Pelard

Sexual assault is a serious public health issue which can happen to anyone of any age, gender, level of education or level of income. Unfortunately, this problem has always existed, and is more common than most imagine.

According to the Rape Crisis Center, one in five Irish adult women and one in 10 Irish adult men experienced sexual assaults during their life.

The World Health Organization defines sexual assault as "any sexual act, attempt to obtain a sexual act, unwanted sexual comments or advances, against a person's sexuality using coercion, by any person regardless of their relationship to the victim."

Consent must be voluntarily given and cannot be obtained through coercion or force, otherwise, it's defined as sexual assault.

No means no. It should be as simple as that. It's in everyone's human right to refuse another's advances.

Indian film actor Amitabh Bachchan recently made a very relevant statement about sexual assaults. He said: "No is an entire sentence in itself. No means no, and when somebody says it, you need to stop."

Each person owns their own body and decides what to do with it,

and "the decision should be respected," says Isabella, a DIT Business student.

There is absolutely no excuse for people committing sexual assaults. As Tomas, an Argentinian exchange student said, "the fact that someone takes drugs or alcohol is not an excuse for bad behavior or sexual aggressions." Each person is indeed responsible for their acts in any circumstances.

Unwanted sexual comments are also considered as a kind of sexual assault. As Sarah, Business and Languages student, pointed out, an aggressive sexual remark "is not a joke or something you should be flattered by, it's verbal sexual assault."

Some people tend to think that the way a woman is dressed can cause and justify sexual assault, which is incredibly false. People may experience sexual assault no matter what they are wearing or how they were acting.

Moreover, what the victim was wearing in no way makes her responsible for the assault. Everyone is free to dress as they want, and someone's outfit is not an excuse for bad behaviors or sexual assaults. No one deserves to be assaulted, asks to be assaulted or wants to be assaulted."

Only 25% of Irish female victims of sexual assault report it to the police. This shockingly low number reflects a very sad reality. Victims endure terrible aggressions, and yet prefer not to press charges against their aggressor. The main reasons are due to the lack of trust that justice will be made, embarrassment, fear and their peer's reactions.

The world campaign "I Believe You," launched two years ago, aims to educate people about how to respond supportively to a disclosure of a sexual assault. It claims that "when we let survivors know we support them, the safer they feel to tell someone."

It's important that victims know that they can be supported by peers, but also by some organizations that can help them.

Sexual assaults are unfortunately frequent in today's world. Recently, 29 actresses and film-industry figures accused Harvey Weinstein, a famous American film producer, of sexual harassment and assault.

The Irish Rape Crisis Center is the specialist in helping and supporting victims of sexual assaults. There are several centers across Ireland, and also a 24 hour Helpline to assist victims when they need help (1800778888). Moreover the Irish Rape Crisis Center website (<http://www.rapecrisishelp.ie>) allows victims to talk to specialists, and gives advice to people who know someone who has been raped or sexually assaulted.

Grange - ‘Gourmande’ - student outrage over canteen prices

Conor Shields

Aramark, the food catering company, has been lambasted by DIT students over the price of canteen food in DIT Grangegorman following a post which was uploaded to a DITSU related Facebook page.

According to similar posts on the ‘DITSU Grangegorman’ Facebook page, the company has received e-mail complaints from students over the cost of food available in the DIT Grangegorman canteen.

Sean Moore, a photography student based in DIT Grangegorman, was the first student to lodge a formal complaint, one which he later published online.

The response that Moore had received from an Aramark representative had listed a “lack of foot flow” as a possible reason why prices may seem higher on that particular campus and why there is less selection for students. However, the response also claimed that the complaint could only be properly addressed if specific meals and items could be identified.

When asked about the response he received, Moore was still unsatisfied.

“The prices which are asked of students are ludicrous in my opinion,” said Moore.

The original post came from Sean Bond, a current PHD student, who had uploaded an image of a burg-

er, broccoli and rice, claiming that he paid €6.70 for it and that it was “ridiculous”. Speaking to The Edition, Sean explained why this bothered him.

“As students, money is a huge concern. Being able to have an affordable option for food everyday is ideal. When you look at the numbers you’d be spending almost €35 a week on food there at the very least,” said Bond.

When asked about Aramark’s response regarding “foot flow”, Sean agreed that this could be an issue but more could still be done.

“If they had cheaper options, they would more than likely have more business Supply and demand. Students want an affordable lunch. That’s demand. Supply them with that and they have the numbers,” explained Bond.

DIT Grangegorman College Officer, Jacinta Odoemene, later explained that she would be meeting with the appropriate regional manager and general manager of Aramark Ireland this week to discuss the issue. In an online Facebook post, she also said that “hopefully positive changes will come about from this meeting” and that “they (Aramark) are willing to sit and discuss the issues that we are having with canteen.”

Speaking to The Edition, Ms Odoemene acknowl-

edged that there was a pricing issue regarding the DIT Grangegorman canteen and that hopefully this issue would be properly addressed in the aforementioned meeting.

“In my opinion, our canteens should be more student friendly, especially when it comes to the price of food. I and the VP for welfare hope to see this change come true when we meet with the canteen manager,” said Ms Odoemene.

At the time of writing this article, it is understood that a meeting has been held between the aforementioned DITSU officials and Aramark representatives and that the pricing issue may come under review.

When asked to comment on the situation, DIT’s Public Affairs office have said...

“We are pleased that student representatives met directly with Aramark staff to discuss the current offering in the Courtyard Cafeteria in Grangegorman and to make suggestions as to how that might be varied in terms of value for money and dietary preferences. In response, Aramark have suggested some additional options that could be offered, given the available kitchen space, and will monitor student choice based on take-up of those options.”

Suspected break-in at the Radio Station during Socs Fest

Dan Grennan

Attempts to break into DIT’s radio station have been made on Thursday the 21st of September between four and five pm during the week of Societies Festival.

The radio society had a money box, sweets and mineral drinks in the station at the time, but luckily they had lodged all of the membership fees from the festival in the society office before putting it in the radio station.

The station which is right beside DITSU has are two rooms in the radio station and a small hallway with doors to either room. The door to the left of the room was hammered until the handle fell off and the lock was unusable. There wasn’t any radio equipment in the station at the time.

Racheal Scully from the Radio Society was first on the scene and said: “the main door was open but the two inner doors were locked. This was unusual but understandable as the main door had issues locking so I figured that whoever was last there decided it best to lock both doors.

“Except the handle for the door on the left which is where our stuff was on the floor. Not thinking much of it I went up to the porters to get the master key and was

told that the radio station was open - one of the porters had been down there a few minutes before me - so I told them it wasn’t and got the key.

“The key wouldn’t go in the lock so one of the porters came downstairs with me to try and open it and he said that the lock was flush to the door and that it looked like someone had come at it with a hammer because it was properly bashed in.”

Chairperson of Radio society Aisling Gill said: “We weren’t sure what was left in there and we started panicking about what was left in there.”

“What was really weird was one of the porters said he was there five minutes before and the handle was still on it,” Aisling added.



Handle knocked off the Radio Station door // Dan Grennan

DIT is still without a student drugs policy

Conor Shields

President of DIT, Professor Brian Norton, has said that he is aware that there is a need for a viable student drug policy within DIT.

The comments were made at the last meeting of the Student Experience Committee where the issue was initially.

Although there is an official Institute Alcohol Policy, there is currently no official policy on drugs in DIT in place for student leaders which includes staff and student union officials.

“I understand that members felt it would be helpful for student leaders who may be responsible for organising activities or trips away to have guidance on how to manage a drug-related situation, while being conscious of the health and safety of students and also of their legal responsibilities,” said Professor Norton.

Although there is no official drugs policy within DIT, the Institute have said that they are very clear on the possession and consumption of illegal substances.

According to DIT’s public affairs office, “The Institute position is clearly that possession and consumption of illegal drugs is against the law. Therefore, if any member of the DIT community were found to be in possession of drugs the matter would be



reported to the Gardai, and internal disciplinary action will also follow.”

They also stated that any student under the influence of drugs or alcohol to a point “where they endanger the health and safety

of themselves or other students”, then that student may face suspension or even expulsion from the Institute.

At the moment, DIT have an Addiction & Substance Abuse policy in place for DIT

staff. This is contained within the Institute’s Sickness Absence Management Policy.

This policy states that, ‘Any staff member found to be under the influence of a substance whilst on Institute duty, and who represents a risk to either him/herself or others, will be relieved from duty immediately and may be subject to appropriate disciplinary action up to and including dismissal/removal from office.’

Also, it states that any staff member who is suspected of having an issue with substance abuse may be referred for treatment under the Institute’s Programme to deal with Addiction and Substance Abuse.

DITSU VP for Welfare, Roisin O’Donovan, has said that DITSU is aware of this issue and is taking it into consideration.

“I absolutely think that there should be a drug policy for student leaders. I think it’s kind of shocking that there isn’t one already because drugs are a very big problem amongst third level students,” said O’Donovan.

DIT is one of a number of third level colleges without a viable student drugs policy. UCD, Trinity College Dublin and NUI Maynooth all have student alcohol policies but no specific student drugs policy.

New website aimed at helping DIT students

Dan Grennan

Appventure.org was launched at the beginning of this academic term, created by Technology officer Trevor Boland with the help from a second year Information Systems and Information technology student, Carissa Smith.

Appventure is a website that aims to support students with disabilities by using infographics that show how to use various technologies and how the likes of student emails and student cards work.

“Using infographics as a way of supporting students as part of a website is a new concept”, said Trevor.

Appventure has a section called ‘new at DIT’, which aims at helping first years come to grips with student life.

“It is important to say that while me and Trevor are interested in the disability side of it, appventure is not just for students with disabilities there is a whole section of the website dedicated to ‘new at DIT’ so the website is designed for people with disabilities like dyslexia because it is easier for them to navigate it”, said Carissa.

Starting college can be a tough time for students, Appventure plans to make it easier. “In your first week of college you receive so much information and it is just given to you. Even with the student card, in my last college you didn’t really need it for that much stuff, so oftentimes I wouldn’t even bring it. In DIT you need it to get into the library and to get in certain doors in Grangegorman, so you need to realise how important certain small things are. Which are sometimes the things people don’t tell you”, added Carissa.

Appventure came about after Trevor and Carissa wrote a proposal to Eir at the beginning of last summer in order to secure a sponsorship for appventure. By the end of the summer they received confirmation from Eir that they had gotten the funding and began making the website.

Both aiming to make things easier for students only starting out.

“It is more trying to be inclusive than exclusive to people with disabilities. It is trying to help your general college life for

first years who might be nervous about asking these questions and so they can go to the website,” Carissa also added.

Trevor mentors Carissa through various technologies, the two also do workshops to show students how to do things and to show just how much free technology is available to them.

“With things like Office 365 which are free to students but some students don’t realise this and buy it. We want to get the word out quicker to students like in induction week or something”, Carissa said.

The two came together when one of Carissa’s old lecturers on her PLC put them in contact with each other.

“I can see it from a student’s point of view and a learning disability point of view which helped on both sides while Trevor could see it from a lecturer’s point of view”, Carissa said of their Dynamic.

“I had these ideas about how you could try and make college life a little bit easier ... I was a first year last year and a lot of

things were really difficult. I use to think about how to make these things easier and Trevor already had the ball rolling with Appventure”, said Carissa.

The workshops “demonstrate free technologies that are available to students, some of those include in-built features in iphones and ipads, free websites that help make presentations, collaborative work, writing up documents as a group and some of these are linked to their student gmail accounts which makes it very natural for students to use them”, Trevor added.

“I had been doing workshops on my own and trying to get students to connect with assistive technology but with Carissa as an assistive technology ambassador as a sort helped students buy into using technology more in the learning experiences in DIT”, said Trevor.

“The purpose of the project is to talk openly about how technology can help everyone and that it offers advice about free technologies which can possibly and hopefully make life a little bit easier while they are staying in DIT”, Trevor added.

Budget '18 and third level education

Marc Morrison

Budget 2018 will bring an additional €47.5m of funding for third level education via a 0.1 per cent increase in the National Training Fund levy. The increase will bring the levy up to 0.8 per cent for 2018. The levy will continue to rise by 0.1 per cent each year till it reaches 1 per cent in 2020.

A spokesperson for the Department of Education and Skills told the Edition, "A range of reforms will be implemented in the NTF from 2018 onwards, including a comprehensive review of the NTF to

guide strategic decisions on its structure and future direction, additional and refocused expenditure on programmes relevant to employers, greater alignment of NTF-funded programmes with employer needs and a greater say for employers, more transparency and a greater focus on evaluation."

In his Budget 18 speech the Minister for Finance Paschal Donohue said, "it will ensure that employers have an essential role for determining priorities in this crucial sector".

The Cassels report published in July 2016 set out 3 funding approaches for consideration: a publicly funded system where the student contribution charge would be abolished and third level education would be free at the point of entry: an increase in public funding but a continuation of the student contribution charge or the implementation of an income contingent student loan system.

Recent commentary has been focused on the option of an income contingent student loan scheme, sparking the USI to organ-

ise a protest in Dublin on October 4 which resulted in thousands of students protesting outside Government Buildings.

While the Government are yet to make a decision on a new approach to funding third level education and continue to emphasise the work of the Oireachtas Committee on Education and Skills on the matter - Leo Varadkar is on the record as saying he would not like graduates to be "saddled with enormous debts".

In a press release, USI

President Michael Kerrigan described the budget as leaving students behind he said "No income-contingent student loans were announced today, but neither was any meaningful new funding model on how third-level education should be funded." Kerrigan also said, "With the cost of living soaring, SUSI grant thresholds needed to be adjusted to allow middle income earners to be able to access the SUSI grant scheme more allowing for students to be financially able to attend and apply themselves in third level."

DIT is leaving The Liberties behind

Nick Moloney

Two of DIT's campuses on the edge of the Liberties are set to vacate and move to Grangegorman as soon as 2019.

The campuses will be moving across the river to Grangegorman and bringing with them 6,000 students.

DIT Kevin Street and DIT's largest campus in Aungier Street are set to leave the area by 2019 and 2022 respectively. The move will leave a big hole in the area's commercial streets. However, not all businesses are worried.

"There are pros and cons from a business point of view... there will be no negative impact if another business moves in," Oliver Cruise from Network Café said.

Oliver said they tend to get more business from students in Aungier Street and would be happy to see a business move into Kevin Street.

"If a business went into Kevin Street we could aggressively target that," he said.

Network Café is positioned across the street from the Aungier Street campus and has become the café of choice for a lot of students.

Paul Horan, head of campus planning for Grangegorman commented on the situation: "Any building we leave will be sold and redeveloped ... there will be new users/occupiers.

"And while the uses may change, if there is a shift

from academic to office use, it will come with a changing demographic and more year-round use, as opposed to the up-down nature of the academic calendar," he added.

There is no certainty as to who will move into the buildings after DIT leaves. However, they are expected to be bought up quickly given the current economic climate and their location.



"We have no certainty about who will buy/use but it is our general opinion that the Kevin Street site is likely to be demolished and fully redeveloped, possibly as a mixed-use office, residential, office site," Horan said.

"Aungier street is a far more modern building and suitable for continued academic use or office use," Horan added.

While both buildings are expected to be bought up quickly, Horan said Kevin Street will probably be redeveloped and this could take up to two years. DIT is working towards a September 2019 deadline for the move, but that could slip.

"Hopefully any impact on local businesses will be short term," Graeme McQueen from the Dublin Chamber of Commerce said.

"DIT leaving the area will open up new opportunities for new tenants or for potential new development," he added.

"The Liberties area is full of potential, that will hopefully be realised in the coming years. Key to this will be the much talked about redevelopment of Iveagh Market, and also the future use of the DIT sites," Mr McQueen said.

According to Dublin City County Council, the location of the two buildings make them attractive to buyers hoping to acquire them for commercial use.

A council spokesperson said some third-level institutes could take interest in either of the buildings.

"That may even include other third-level use and there are other third-level colleges in the area including private colleges and institutions such as the Royal College of Surgeons," the council spokesperson added.

NEWS

EDUCATION IS... IN THE RED



If students come out of college with a €20,000 in debt that's going to have a really big impact on their mental health." Roisin O'Donovan, said VP Welfare DITSU Roisin O'Donovan // Nikki Murphy & Aoife Kearns



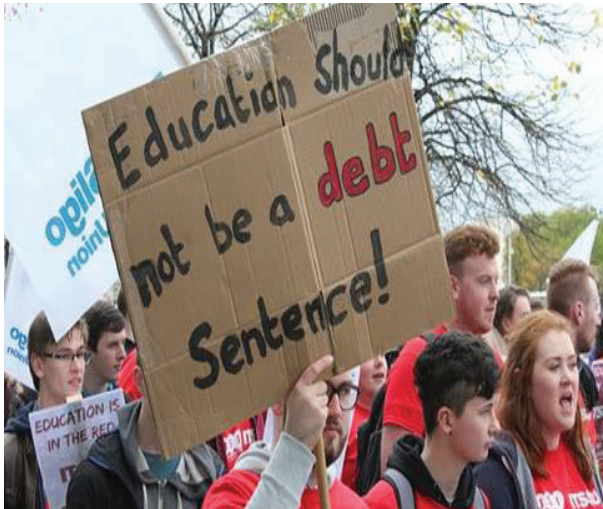
International evidence will show that there has been a reduction in mature students, part time students, students with disabilities ...



... in any country they've been brought into...At the moment in Ireland 46% of students receive the government grants, said President of Union of Students of Ireland Michael Kerrigan // Nikki Murphy & Aoife Kearns



The turn out for DIT today is absolutely excellent, I've never been so proud of this college in my life... The loans would be detrimental to the students, 40% of DIT are on a student grant, said DITSU President Boni Odoemene // Nikki Murphy & Aoife Kearns



Have we gone mad? Why we should all be wearing helmets.

Laura Ashmore investigates the reasons why many of us do not wear our helmets, and why it has lead to meaningless casualties nationwide.

The number of cyclists on Irish roads rocketed by a whopping 43% between 2011 and 2016. According to the Central Statistics Office (CSO), various accidents on our roads tragically claimed the lives of 10 cyclists last year. This brings the importance of helmets and safety when cycling to our attention.

the age of social media and vanity wins once again as a lot of us make the baffling decision to care more about our image than the possibility of ending up a human vegetable.

There were a total of 186 fatalities on Irish roads in 2016, which highlights the potential danger for road users and the utmost importance of safety measures.

Cyclists are among the most vulnerable road users, and one of the most effective steps they can take to prevent possible brain damage and even death, is the simple act of wearing a helmet. According to the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration (NHTSA), bicycle helmets are almost 90% effective in preventing brain injuries.

Frequent rider Basil Ashmore is a strong advocate for helmets, after he was the victim of a serious accident in New York in 2004. After a car cut directly in front of him, he bounced off the vehicle and was thrown onto the ground landing directly on his head, back and coccyx. Emergency services were immediately called and a CT scan was per-

formed in a nearby hospital. The GPS Basil had been carrying at the time later showed a sudden halt in speed from a shocking 38.3kmph to zero. These figures combined with the post-accident headaches he still suffers six years on, give some idea of the intense impact he suffered during the accident. Although he can't say for certain whether the helmet saved his life, he believes he would have "had signifi-



cantly worse concussion and resultant brain damage". Speaking as a seasoned and experienced cyclist, Basil said: "I will always wear a helmet as crashes are not uncommon and happen occasionally.

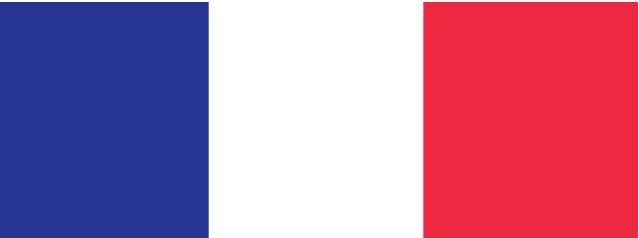
"The consequences of a hard crash and a head injury without a helmet are potentially catastrophic and even fatal. "Frankly, it's too serious a risk to take." Taking this into consideration, why do we see so many cyclists today around the city without a helmet on their head? Cian O'Byrne, Head of DIT Cycle Club, reckons this could be due to the partial inconvenience helmets impose. He told the Edition: "I think when people are coming to or from college and work, it's just an extra thing to carry around, which is definitely the wrong attitude considering you don't realise how important they are until it's too late - a helmet is like a seatbelt, it's just common sense." There also seems to be a worryingly common conception (especially among younger generations) that helmets are considered 'uncool'. DIT student Katie Considine has asserted that it's not uncommon for someone to be made fun of for wearing a helmet. She said: "They're viewed as embarrassing, when really they're just saving lives." Consequently, the age of social media and vanity wins once again as a lot of us make the baffling decision to care more about our image than the possibility of ending up a human vegetable.

The question that now remains is how can we encourage cyclists to strap a helmet on their heads? One potential effective solution could be to introduce a legislation that actually forces all cyclists to wear helmets. Maybe if we take away the option of not wearing helmet, safety will finally be given the opportunity to conquer both our desire for convenience and our all-consuming need to constantly look fashionable.

Bienvenue en Irlande

By Emilie Gille

My name is Emilie. I am French and I have chosen the DIT for my Erasmus experience. Apart from driving on the left-hand side of the road in Ireland, I noticed a few more differences between Paris and Dublin. Naturally, my first impression of Ireland came to me at the airport.



It happened when I was having trouble finding the bus I had to take. Weighed down with my luggage, a red-haired man helped me to carry them. While he was helping me, I asked him if he knew where was my bus stop. He did not, but he tried everything to help me, even running after another bus, just to ask the driver if he knew.

In Paris, if you ask for help, everybody will say that they do

not know, and walk away, leaving you with your troubles. Parisians are always in a hurry especially on public transport. Here, it is not the same, Dubliners do not really rush and are usually willing to lend a helping hand.

The public transport system in Paris is different too. You have a transport card, you pay a price per month and that allows you to travel unlimited, while in Dublin, you top-up the Leap Card, depending on your needs. I noticed that Irish people like to talk and get to know you, regardless if they are your classmates or your professors. For example the first time I met my coordinator, we talked about courses but not only that. We had a long conversation about my tastes and about France. When I go to talk to somebody here, I never have the impression that I am going to disturb them.

There are also some differences in societal problems. For instance, abortion was allowed in 1975 in France by the law Veil. It was voted in when the access to contraception was difficult in my country. At the time a lot of abortions were done secretly and in bad conditions. There is still criticism from conservative parties and associations, but it is recognized by most

French people unlike in Ireland where the debate goes on. I was surprised that it was not already done in Ireland, because it is so normal in France now, and Irish seem to be open-minded about a lot of subjects. I suppose the issue is related to the Catholic Church, which is still very present in Ireland.



The nightlife in Dublin is not the same either. There is a cliché in France that Irish people think the pub is the place to be, not only by night but also in the afternoon. It surprised me that it was not only a meeting place for students, but as well for adults. In Paris, the places to go out are fuller in the weekend. Here, it's every day, no matter if people are going to college or to work tomorrow. It is definitely not same way of life.

FEATURES

HurriCAN Ophelia: I spent eight hours in Wetherspoons during the fierce winds

Dan Grennan
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Upon hearing the news that DIT and half of Dublin would be closed for the day, myself and my two roommates came to the conclusion that there was only one option for us...to go on the sesh!

After a restful sleep, we rose at noon to find we had no cans or spirits to get us through the hurricane. Unsure whether any shops would be open or willing to sell us cans, we made our way into Blackrock village.

As we went on our way we noticed



Standing outside Centra on the corner of the main street, we were defeated men.

Filled with doom and gloom, we thought our journey had come to a close, until Nathan suggested we drown our sorrows in the Wetherspoons not 50 metres up the road.

Filled with boisterous glee, we

sipping pints, a pair of young boys in the corner and a dismal mood all round. This was to be our shelter for the storm.

Despite the mood in the room, we went to the bar and got our pints. Jack got a fosters, Nathan an ale and I a bitter. The sum of the three pints was under 8 euro, the silver lining in the cloud of dismay.

After a short conversation with the tired looking barman we made our way to the smoking area to survey the storm. The wind had picked up and there was a drizzle of rain in the air.

Not long after we went out a short man in his 50s approached and

stabbed through his forearm by a man he refused entry to and nearly bled out. Shane said "when he pulled the knife out he also pulled out my vain". He was in such a bad state that he had to be rushed to the Children's Hospital for fear of him losing too much blood.

He said at the time he didn't feel it because of the sheer amount of adrenaline that was rushing around his body. It was also his downfall because it pumped more blood out of his arm. He showed us the scar from the incident which was quite gruesome.

After a few of his stories, Shane invited us in to meet his friend Liam. Ophelia

was starting to kick-off so we decided it'd be best to get some shelter. Before we got to his table Shane pulled us aside and warned us that Liam had lost most of his face and all his fingers because he was licked by his dog a few years back. This sounds like a joke but it's not. Liam was a lovely man. Small in stature with a friendly heart. After greeting him I couldn't help myself but ask how he lost most of his face. He told us his dog had licked his face years and he began to feel unwell. He felt so bad that he checked himself into hospital and

over the next few days his face and fingers began to fall off.

The doctors used a piece his rib to restructure his nose and flesh from his shoulder to construct a new face.

He said the doctors had a hard time finding out what it was but eventually put it down to a reaction his skin had from weird bacteria as a very jolly man and still has the dog to this day!

While we chatted away to Liam and Shane, day became night and worst and the storm had passed. We decided it would be best to make our way home and leave the Three Tun Tavern until the next time.



Writer Dan Grennan struggles through the ex-hurricane

the Wicked Wolf was open. This was a good omen.

We discussed that if needs be we could always risk going in and asking if they do take away, because none of us were willing to spend our cash on expensive pints.

Eddie Rockets was also open, another good omen. As we struggled through the winds and Eddie Rockets we saw that Centra was also open, and on seeing the news my roommate, Jack, let out a gleeful shout. Alas, the cans were ours!

All three of us swaggered into the shop in search of some glorious beverages. However, it was not to be. Centra's alcohol shelf consisted of a measly selection of wines. None of us are fond of headaches or gut-rot, and we couldn't bring ourselves round to making the purchase. We inquired with the store clerk whether any other shops were open in the village but she answered no.

walked through the doors of the Three Tun Tavern (The name of the Wetherspoons). The atmosphere in the pub did not reflect our mood. There was constant weather updates on every screen which was also the only source of sound in the place. There was a couple of auld lads dotted around the place

The sum of the three pints was under 8 euro, the silver lining in the cloud of dismay

When he pulled the knife out he also pulled out my vain

asked us for a light for his rollie. Jack obliged. After lighting up his rollie, Gerry started telling us about his life as an international boat salesman and how he used to travel the world.

We were enjoying his conversation and stories until he started into his life as author and his book on Ireland before Christianity and then we started to doubt Gerry's trustworthiness. After he concluded his short monologue about his book I asked for his second name so I could look up his book which refused to give me because "it would make it too easy for you". Whatever that means.

Soon after Gerry made it back inside to the company of his pint while we stayed out and reveled in the ex-hurricane.

We had the smoking area to ourselves until we were met with another smoker. A big man by the name of Shane. Shane was not as glamorous as Gerry. Shane told us he had been a doorman around Dublin for the past twenty years. It wasn't long before Shane began telling us some of his tales from 20 years experience manning doors of Dublin's top clubs and pubs. One of the wilder ones was when he got

If you have any stories from the sesh why not send them into editor@edition.ie and you could be published in the **EDITION**



'The calm before the storm'

Carissa Smith - Eir disability Champion of 2017

Dan Grennan

Co-Editor

@dan_grennan

Carissa became the Eir disability champion because of her work on the Appventure project she did with the help of her mentor Trevor Boland, DIT's assistant technology officer.

Appventure is a website that is designed to help students navigate DIT by giving them handy tips, like Microsoft Office being free to students, and informing them about technologies that make student life easier.

Carissa found out she was dyslexic at the age of 20 while taking a two year PLC.

Smith says about learning disabilities that "people see it as a disability ... you find some things hard but some things are a lot easier because of it".

Carissa Smith has always had an interest in technology. "My Mam said when I was really young I used to do things like take a clock off the wall and take it apart to see how it worked. My Dad always had tools lying around so that got me into it", said Carissa.

Considering her natural curiosity and flare for mechanics, one would assume her talents would transfer into her academics, but she struggled through secondary school. "You get this reputation as a messer but a lot of the time I would be messing because I couldn't do something ... there was times I couldn't recognize my own name in someone else's handwriting".

"I made it through school because I used technology...I used to go take computers apart and put them back together...I would get home and I would scan a document in and play the audio of what it said on the computer". As you can imagine Carissa was always exhausted after a day of doing this but she was still called 'lazy' and a 'messer' because she couldn't concentrate on something she couldn't understand.

"If you think about a b, a d, a p and a q all lower case are all the same to me". "I went

to a youth club once a week who believed I could do it (homework), so every Thursday I would make it to college"



"I would have my homework done because someone would sit down with me and help me do it."

"Then I got the reputation as badly behaved and lazy because they didn't un-

derstand how I could do it once a week." "When I was 18 I was taught how to read

I would make it to college"

"If you don't need it you don't know".

"All you need is that group of people who believe in you and it makes everything a lot easier".

"It was the first youth club I wasn't kicked out of for poor behaviour. They really believed in me and pushed me and now I am a youth leader of a special needs group in that club". The name of the youth club, Urban Junction in Blackrock, brought Carissa on as a youth mentor. "I now have 12 kids I mentor in the youth club".

She even devised a way to take notes through a system of illustrations because it made more sense to her mind than a sequence of incomprehensible letters. As you can imagine her teachers dismissed it as more of her 'messing', despite her best efforts to explain herself.

From her experiences in school Carissa "never thought she would make it to college", let alone become the 'technology mentor' of the college in her second year.

Despite her disabilities Carissa is thriving in college. When she meets people from her school they find it hard to believe she is a second year student of information systems and computer science.

As technology mentor in DIT Carissa shows students with disabilities alternative ways to do their college work that they may find easier than the classic secondary school model of learning vast amounts of information and regurgitating it later in an exam situation. Carissa's struggles during her school years with her own disabilities makes her the perfect candidate for the job.

"I wake up happy now compared to back in school when I would just be in a bad humour".

Be Sound Be Well

By Ja Wei Lee

The issue of mental health is becoming a much talked about topic in recent years. It seems the issue is getting much more prevalent in this modern era.

This year, mental health week took place from 9th October- 14th October. According to the Union of Students in Ireland (USI), students are waiting up to six weeks for counselling services. This constant issue of prolonged waiting times is causing students suffering with mental health even more distress.

Following up on the special week, The Edition spoke to DIT's Vice President for Welfare, Roisin O'Donovan regarding the topic of mental health.

In September, DITSU released a video entitled 'Be Sound Campaign: Bullying Awareness' to spread awareness on how bullying

can affect someone's mental health.

"Basically when a student gets bullied, there is so many different ways that it can affect them. They just don't want to go to college. They might act differently with their friends, their parents and family.

It can also be a big distraction from their studies. It can affect their exam, their assignments and kind of makes you anti-social, if you are normally a sociable person," said Roisin O'Donovan.

Standing up to a bully can also prove to be a hard task, as Roisin points out. "Yeah, it can be hard, especially if you are friends with them, because you don't want to ruin the relationship; but they (bullies) may not necessarily know what they're doing is bullying. It really depends on the relationship of the per-

son with the bully," said O'Donovan.

Roisin was also last year's chairperson for the mental health society in DIT. She tells The Edition about how it all began. "I set it up last year with Kieron, who is now the current chairperson of the mental health society. Basically, we set it up together because we felt that there was a real need for it in DIT. We saw that all the other colleges across Ireland had a mental health society. In setting it up, we do lots of fun events and raising awareness about mental health and raising awareness about the services in DIT that are available,"

As the interview got on, I was curious as to what got her so passionate regarding the issue of mental health. That was when she said: "The main thing I noticed is that so many people can be so negative, I would generally

try my best to be a positive, optimistic person. Obviously, you won't be happy everyday because some things happen in life that don't make you happy.

Having a mental health issue is not a subject that you can quantify. People may find it hard to express the worries they have in their mind. Roisin said: "They is so many barriers that stop students from talking about mental health. One of the reasons is embarrassment. They may think that it's a silly thing to be upset about. You just kind of brush it off your shoulders. There's also the idea that other people will not understand as well.

"There's still a bit of stigma surrounding mental health, but I think it has gone better though. I think a lot more people are talking about mental health."

FEATURES

Who Can Use the Gender-Free Bathrooms? Explaining the Signage

Maryam Madani explores the issues surrounding the former disabled toilets and asks: Are the needs of the disabled being moved aside?

I am a wheelchair user and a student in DIT Aungier St. I use the disabled bathroom every day. The moment I saw the new sign on the door and heard them being referred to as “gender-neutral” toilets, and not disabled toilets, I was afraid that the needs of disabled people were being pushed aside.

“The message needs to go out ... that it’s not a free-for-all,” said Brian Gormley head of Campus Life.

“Essentially what we’re saying is that if students and staff are able to use the male and female bathrooms they should

may play, whereas sex refers to biology, and the prefix ‘cis-’ to those whose gender is aligned with their biological sex.

O’Donovan feels the point needs to be expressed more that the gender-neutral toilets are “not just for transgender or disabled students, cos there’s a lot of students who identify as nonbinary, which means

He said that even back as a fresher, “from the get-go all I wanted to know about was the bathroom.” He also expressed some discomfort about the chosen location: “I would have preferably used the gender neutral bathroom, but I feel like I’m taking it away from someone that might need the extra help that’s in that bathroom.”



I was particularly worried when I saw four symbols on the sign- did this mean that anyone could now use it in the name of inclusivity, even those who would normally use the male and female bathrooms with ease?

I’ve seen no increase in traffic and haven’t had to wait for access. However, my concern is whether people will begin to take advantage of the now seemingly opened-up space.

Wheelchair users have a similar problem when getting the bus- our space is highly coveted by parents with buggies, and there have been countless times when I have not been allowed onto a bus because a parent refused to fold up their buggy.

The number of parents with buggies in Dublin far outweigh wheelchairs so I am always anxious about whether I’ll be able to board a bus. This is now the same worry I have when I go to the toilet.

With this, I decided to investigate who the toilets are for.

use them and if they don’t feel comfortable using them then the gender-neutral bathrooms are accessible to all so they can use them” Gormley went on to say.

“The reason there is a male, female, transgender and disabled sign is not so cis-males and cis-females should use it as a free for all ... The main thing when I look at those male and female [symbols] is it’s kind of telling those non-binary stu-

**The message
needs to go
out ... that it’s
not a free-for-
all**

dents that they can choose their gender”.

Gender here refers to the social roles one

that they use ‘they/them’ pronouns. They wouldn’t use he/him or she/her, because they just don’t feel like they fit a certain gender”.

“Sometimes non-binary students wake up and feel more feminine and use feminine pronouns, and then in a couple months they may feel more masculine and use “him”. Which is kind of similar for people who are transitioning to transgender. There are a lot of students who find that sometimes they just fluctuate between genders.” O’Donovan went on to say.

“It’s so interesting though, I find that no matter what way you have it people are going to complain about it”, Roisin said.

The importance of these toilets to the LGBT community cannot be understated, and it goes beyond being a symbol of solidarity. A student who had begun physical transitioning (who wanted to remain anonymous) told us “when we have all-gender bathrooms is when I’d feel comfortable to start my medical transition.” This is an expression of the powerful effect gender neutral bathrooms have on students.

Some transitioning students have expressed fears that using the gender-neutral toilets might be akin to outing themselves. Nita Whelan, Head of the Student Counselling Service, suggested it might be more progressive and normalising “if it’s not labelled for anybody. If it’s just a toilet.”

There were no new toilets built because DIT is preparing to move all five campuses to Grangegorman. Cathal Brugha St, Kevin St and Rathmines will close in 2019, bringing 10,000 students to Grangegorman, and Aungier St will join the move by 2021/2022.

The new campus design will have Universal Access, removing the need for separate disabled toilets altogether, according to Brian Gormley. “in the planning for the new building on campus we provide a range of gender neutral bathrooms and male bathrooms and female bathrooms just to give people a choice.” “It’s all about giving people options”

‘Restrooms’ and Americanisation

By Robert O’Halloran

You have probably noticed the new ‘Gender Neutral restrooms’ which were recently installed into the DIT campus on Aungier Street, and there is no denying that this is a progressive and popular move. Why should we not share the same bathroom? It is a toilet for feck’s sake, yet it is not a ‘restroom’. What even is a restroom?

I suppose it sounds nicer, and as college students in particular will agree, rest is a wonderful thing. It is the latest example of a forward thinking, western and liberal culture among our generation. This culture has been acted on by the Student Union and they’ve been happy to

take their deserved plaudits. However, it is also the latest example of Ireland slowly losing its unique culture as it succumbs to that of the dominant North America, in this globalised western world. Having spent the summer listening to Canadians ask for the ‘wash-room’, I am probably over-reacting. Yet why do we have to incorporate their clean and vague terminology? When have you ever heard an Irish person call it anything other than a bathroom, or a toilet? Provided they are not using other colloquial slang. Our accents have been infiltrated. Try find a girl from south-east Dublin who doesn’t incorporate the word

‘like’ meaninglessly into her vocabulary. We all know THAT guy who has the ‘too much TV’ American accent. Many great things have come from the United States (Kanye West, Domino’s Pizza) so keep in mind that this is not a xenophobic rant. It is just a concern that every day Ireland, and in particular Dublin is becoming ‘America lite’. We already have enough Starbucks cafés. Five Guys was the talk of the town this time last year, and sure it is only the guts of twenty quid for a bacon cheeseburger meal. At least we have ‘Black Friday’, we’ll make the money back then.

What would your grandparents

think? Poor old Gramps, and Grandma, as they’re lucky enough not to be remembered as. A proud and nationalistic generation, watching their ‘terrible beauty’ decompose and conform.

Embrace your Irish pride. It’s the reason the nation comes to a standstill when the football is on, we all know it’s not the standard of play. There’s no fun in diluting it and there’s no joy in losing it. The last thing we need is somebody coming along in twenty years from now promising to ‘Make Ireland Great Again’.

What Budget ‘18 means for students

By Marc Morrison

The old cliché to “kick the can down the road” has never been more accurately depicted than in what the Government has done regarding third level education in Budget 2018.

The Cassel’s report published in July 2016 emphasized the urgent need for a solution to the funding issues within the sector. Yet, given the perfect opportunity of a budget in which the Government threw a paltry €5 to social welfare recipients, they sidestepped the funding issue of third level education.

Well, they didn’t entirely sidestep the issue. Akin to a lazy defender in a football match they threw an arm out and hoped for the best. A token gesture some might say.

If education is a route out of poverty why not allow more families on social welfare have the chance to take themselves off welfare with the help of an adequately funded third level education sector.

According to the Department for Education and Skills the student grant scheme operated by SUSI costs €450m annually. While I recognise that pensioners and those on social welfare are some of the most vulnerable in our society, and should be accommodated for accordingly, the €5 euro a week bonus to the old

age pension and social welfare payments will come at a cost of €264m in 2018.

The Government had a chance to invest this money in the future by increasing student grant funding by around 66 percent and allowing many more students to enter the

student grant scheme, but instead chose to try and grab votes.

Paschal Donohoe pledged €47.5 million of additional funding to the sector. The 47.5m will come from an increase in the National Training Fund levy. Little of the NTF expenditure is spent on higher education, with the majority being spent on apprenticeship programs such as SOLAS.

Higher education is largely being ignored in Ireland yet youth unemployment currently sits at 14.8 percent. Germany has a youth unemployment rate of 6.4pc and the lowest in the EU. Why? A significant reason for this is because third level education is free at the point of entry. The focus of the Government should be relieving financial pressure on current and future students, the only way to do this is through increasing funding for access routes and SUSI.

Taoiseach Leo Varadkar calls this Island the Republic of Opportunity.



OPINIONS

Orange is not the new black

By Lauren Fetherston

In a world filled with chaos and natural disasters it is crucial to have a platform from which we can address the important issues. It is here where we will discuss one of DIT's bigger problems.

I know what you are thinking, leaving class to go to the bathroom only to realise the first one you come across is for the opposite gender and having to begin your search for a toilet relating to you. Well to this I would agree that, yes, this is huge inconvenience but not what we will be addressing in this week's opinion piece.

No, this week, we will be talking about something even more sickening and something that I can guarantee each and every one of you reading this have had to deal with at some point or another.

That problem...is the Grumpy Mule's exceptionally orange coffee cups.

In the spirit of being fair and just, I

feel it is necessary to say I have no problem with the coffees that are served in the Grumpy Mule, nor should you. Actually, I have enjoyed quite a nice mocha on the one occasion I bought a coffee from this



campus café. Instead, this problem is merely the appearance of the coffee cups that can be found discarded just about anywhere throughout DIT, which is a problem itself but I'm going to steer clear of climate change this time.

Orange and threatening, these cof-

fee cups are the stuff of nightmares. To make the situation worse they match it with a black lid. Orange and black? Is this in relation to Halloween? Because it certainly gives me nightmares. There is no reason for a

paper cup to be that eye-catching, I mean what happened to traditional coffee cups? You know the ones that are grey, brown, khaki green, and all the colours associated with warmth and cosiness. You may get the impression at this stage of the article that I am against creative cup designs and thinking outside the box, but let me tell you if the

Grumpy Mule designed the most eccentric cup using neutral colours I would be the first person in line to buy that shit.

Unfortunately, after the first time buying a coffee here and drinking out of that orange 'contraption', I made the decision to trek the journey to the first-floor restaurant just to use a Bewleys cup.

At this point I'd imagine you are thinking 'who gave this person the space to write about such nonsense' and, well...fair. But that is not the only point to this article. The point is to display how easily a phobia can be triggered. Now I am not saying my disgust as the Grumpy Mule cups is a phobia, because while the sight of the cups makes my skin crawl and stomach churn, I have come to the conclusion that I may just have an intolerance to them.

But hey, I still wouldn't complain if the Grumpy Mule changed their cup design.

The Importance of Gender Neutral Bathrooms.

By Laylah Beattie

This year, DIT added 47 gender neutral bathrooms across its different campuses. As a transgender female, I believe that this development hasn't come a moment too soon. It would be easy to disregard the need for gender neutral bathrooms and of course many people do. I have no doubt that this development has prompted a number of conversations between DIT students expressing their doubts about them. But for a gender nonconforming person, this simple action could be making a world of difference.

When I first arrived at DIT in 2015, I was still identifying as male, but my appearance was completely feminine. I had long hair, carried handbags and dressed in women's clothing. Not sure what to do, I used the

male bathroom. For the most part, this was fine, but I did experience a little bit of harassment. Groups of boys laughing when I emerged from a cubicle. People staring me up and down with a frown in clear attempts of intimidating me. Once a boy even kicked the door of my cubicle and ran from the bathroom while all of his friends laughed. Had a gender neutral bathroom been around at that time, it would have saved me a lot of hassle.

Outside of DIT, the harassment was a lot worse. I found myself shouted at, berated and even chased out of public bathrooms. People are cruel, we see evidence of that every day. And if you're advocating against gender neutral bathrooms, you're advocating for people to be unsafe. Trust me on that. I could tell you many more

stories.

You could say that people who have a penis should use the male bathroom and that people with vaginas should use the female bathroom but that's polarising a considerable amount of the population. These days, it's a widely accepted fact that more than two genders exist. And there are many variables in between.

In all sense of the word, I'm a woman. I present as a woman. I socialise as a woman. And people (even strangers) refer to me as a woman. But I'm a woman with a penis. And according to some people, this means I should be using the male bathroom. But I, as a woman standing in the middle of a group of boys, washing my hands will only make

myself and said boys feel uncomfortable. Why not save everyone the discomfort?

At the end of the day, this isn't really my battle to fight. For the last year or so, I've been quietly using the female bathroom very happily. Gender neutral bathrooms aren't something I wish to use, but as a decent human being I will of course advocate for them. Arguing over which bathroom a person should use gets incredibly complicated. The universally agreed solution is to have gender neutral bathrooms. Not using the toilet isn't an option for any of us. Gender neutral bathrooms allow all of us, no matter who we are to do it in peace. If you object to that, I personally think you should take a long, hard look at yourself.

Societies

OF DIT

Spotlight

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For a lot of people, especially new students, the college environment can be a daunting one. Those first few weeks are a sensory overload. New classes, new friendships, new experiences; it's all very intense. But a chief lesson you learn from college, is that if you engage actively and embrace the madness, what was once daunting will likely become rewarding.

One of the best ways to really dive into college life is by getting involved in the wide ranging selection of societies available to all DIT students, from fresh faced first years, to grizzled and self-loathing fourth years. We at the Edition are closely linked to DIT's News Soc, and one of our missions going forward is to keep a strong focus on issues and services within our many campuses.

With that in mind, we thought it would be beneficial to give an insight into some of the many exciting clubs and societies available to you. If you are part of a society, and would like to tell the student population what you have in store for the academic year, don't hesitate to get in touch with us. So let's take a look at some of the societies on offer this year.



DIT Radio Society //Facebook

Live Music Society

'My name is Stefan and I'm a general committee member in the [Live Music] Society, and we run open-mic nights every few weeks, and we run big band workshops every couple of weeks as well. We're also running workshops in guitar, drums, and other instruments...and we're doing lessons as well every few weeks. It's the best... people here are very shy or not used to going on live so they can do this [if they] are looking for a free easy way with no hassle and no stress, you can bring your friends and make it a lot more relaxing. It's a supportive group.'



DIT News Society //Facebook

Russian Society

'It is great for Slavic people who speak Russian. We make events with the Trinity and UCD Russian societies to help people make new friends, relationships et cetera. We make a lot of Russian trips and events...this summer we're planning a trip to Russia. [The Russian Society] helps to integrate with other societies...to make people feel confident and at home...to bring us Slavic people together.'

News Society

'News Society was set up as a society for journalism students, but a lot of other students have joined as well and have expressed different opinions and interest in writing for the college newspaper.'

'We run The Edition, which is completely independent of DIT, so it's a great way for students to voice their views and get by-lines into the newspaper. As well as that we organise workshops and guest speakers who are experienced journalists and help them improve their writing skills. The society was basically gone last year and it's the first time that the college paper has been run purely by sitting students'

Harry Potter Society

'We have lots of Harry Potter events...like Sorting Hat, quizzes, movie nights, wand making, and we also went to London last year so we'll go again this year hopefully'

Investment Society

'The Investment Society is a recently formed society, we're only about two years old now, and this year we're aiming to have

a student managed fund in which each member of the Investment Society will be able to come forward to the group and pitch any stock they want to invest in and from that depending on how strong we believe the stock to be we will put a proportion of our funding toward that stock and hopefully make a profit from that stock.

Apart from that we'll be having different personalities coming in from marketing and big accounting firms coming in and giving different types of workshops.'

Snooker and Pool

'It's great to waste a few hours during the week it's always open you can just come down and play and it's a great bunch of lads. It's great now because we just got the snooker table in last year so it's quite unusual to have a snooker table in college we have two private pool tables and the snooker table so it's perfect now.'

Radio Society

'We've just been set up...we're doing pre-recorded shows, we're going to have workshops on podcasts, we're going to have presenters coming in to teach how to work a desk, we're going to do live events...we have so much planned. Hopefully after Christmas and the New Year we'll have the station go live...we'll have live shows every day broadcasting through all the [Student Unions]. The school and the students have been fighting for this for five years, there's so much money being put in by the college because they want this to work...we have power, we can advertise, we can make things happen.'

Young Fine Gael

'It's a platform for like-minded people to get together, to socialise, to have debates, to organise different events and activities. There's something for everybody...if someone is more inclined to be more involved with policy...or if they're more into socialising they can also get involved with that, or a mix of all of the aspects of politics. There are events every week...going to Leinster House or the Dail for drinks with politicians, or having debates on current affairs, but mostly just having a chat with other students. There's a real family feel...it's centrist as well so you get people from all different walks of life.'



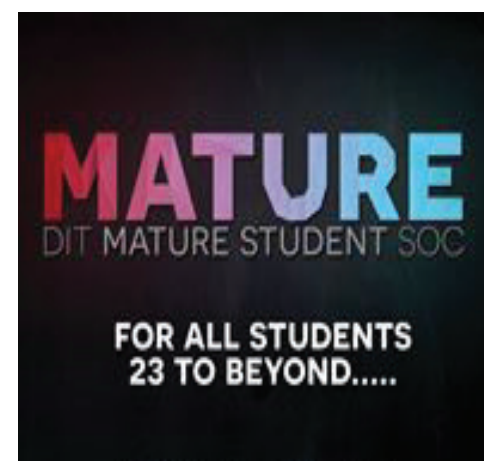
DIT Art and Design Society //Facebook



DIT Harry Potter Society //Facebook

Design Soc

'We like to inspire creative thinking...what we want to do is link all kinds of designers together, so we have graphic design, product design, interior fashion, literally whatever you can think of.'



DIT Mature Society //Facebook

Mature Society

'We just have a range of events that are both academic aimed and socially aimed so we are just creating a platform for mature students to meet and socialise as well as cater for academic writing skills and math skills. There wasn't a mature society, so that's what's special about it, because now there is a mature society so we're catering for a niche in the societies.'

Japanimation

We are the Anime and Manga society of DIT. We host our own conventions and do our own cosplay. It's really just a place to practice a hobby but we plan to do much more. Last year we donated 1,400 euro to youth suicide prevention Ireland from the profits of our conventions.

It is a great place to be yourself and have fun! You also get to know people around the different campuses who have the same interests.

STUDENT LIFE

That Time in Coppers...

One of the most prominent nightclubs in Dublin is Copperface Jacks on Harcourt Street. It's a spot loved by some, and loathed by others. For many, it has played host to some unforgettable nights. But that isn't always a good thing, as **Lauren Fetherston** found out...

Living in Ireland you have more than likely heard of Copperface Jacks at least once. It is notorious for a lot of reasons; the gold cards, the clientele and the fact that most of the people who go there are "on the pull".

Rewind to a couple of months ago when I finally walked through those doors for the first, and preferably the last time. It was the week of my birthday and I wasn't too pushed on going out, very unlike me I might add. Debating all week long about what I should do my best friend and I decided we would head out that Thursday.

My best friend, Aoife, was working until 11 so the plan was that we would head out together; cue me pre-drinking while I waited for her to finish. It is safe to say I was fairly drunk upon arriving at Coppers.

After smooth talking our way past the bouncers we headed to the bar and bought ourselves two G&T's. We were in the bar for around a minute and a half before the lads came out of the woodwork. Lurking through the crowd like a lion eyeing his prey we were approached by the man that would cause us such hassle by the end of this night. We will call him Mallow (he was from Mallow, I think?) partially to hide his identity and partially – mostly – because I can't remember his name.

In Mallow's defence he was actually a nice enough man. He chatted away to us both and continued to buy us drinks all night, which we repeatedly told him not to do. To cut a long story short, myself and Mallow may have kissed once or twice, but we are not going to dwell on this. Instead we will talk about how Aoife drank herself into oblivion, and while I was also drunk I was still the most sober, meaning I was left looking after her.

It had gotten to the point where Mallow was buying us drink, and as soon as he turned around I would put in on a table, knowing I had reached my limit – one more drink and I would have had alcohol poisoning. On the other hand Aoife took it upon herself to drink twice her body weight in alcohol.

Seeing how drunk she was I decided it was time to go. I bid farewell to Mallow and off we went to McDonald's, at least I thought I bid farewell. Walking up to the road I had realised Mallow had left with us, which was random enough as it is, but I was too busy taking care of Aoife to think about that fact.

Fast forward to McDonald's, I had ordered Aoife her usual – Chicken nuggets, a McCruncher, twisty fries, BBQ dip and a choco-



Coppers is one of Dublin's most notable late night venues // copperfacejacks.ie

late milkshake- as she waited half asleep on a table nearby. I sat down beside her, and while she ate Mallow began to waffle away. Trying not to be rude I was nodding to his story, occasionally turning around to check on Aoife, only to see she was gone. But don't worry, she hadn't gone far, only up to the counter to demand more chicken nuggets.

It was at this point that I decided it was time for a taxi home. I pulled one over and put Aoife in it and went to hop in myself. I turned to say goodbye for the second time and saw Mallow climb into the taxi after me. "We are heading in different directions it probably makes more sense for you to get your own taxi." Polite but to the point – nicely executed Lauren, or so I thought. He determined that it would make sense for us to share a taxi regardless.

I was tired, and with Aoife literally asleep in the taxi I didn't have the energy to argue. Off we went to my house first, of course, with him telling me how he is "part of the IRA" the entire time, in an attempt to swoon me. Great idea!

Finally, the taxi pulled up outside my house. I wasn't sure how much more of that conversation I could take. I hopped out and helped Aoife to the front door, unlocked it and off she trotted up the stairs to bed, blissfully unaware of what I was dealing with and would have to deal with for the next half hour.

I should note that I live with my parents, who were asleep upstairs the entire time. Mallow had jumped out of the taxi himself and walked up to my front door. He told

me the taxi driver wouldn't take him to Terenure, lies. I ran to stop the taxi before he drove off, asking him to take this persistent pest back to his home. No use, he then told me he would get one on the main road after he used my bathroom cause he really needed to go.

I let him use it and waited at the front door, it was when he came downstairs that the usual drama started, asking to stay on the sofa. My answer was repeatedly no, however, like I said he was a persistent pest. Eventually I just told him bluntly, that he wasn't staying and that I was going to bed. I locked the door, put the alarm on.

We were in the bar for around a minute and a half before the lads came out of the woodwork

Just as I was drifting off I heard a knock on the door. Startled and worried it would wake my parents I ran downstairs. It was Mallow. "I have no money for a taxi, can I just stay here?." The answer was still no and in an attempt to rid myself of this leech I ran upstairs to check my purse for money. I found €1.60, shocking stuff. No other options left I checked Aoife's purse. A fiver! €6.60 between the two of us... shameful.

Anyway, I offered him the money and told

him which way he could get a taxi. He refused: "no it's fine I'll walk home." Yep, that's right walk home to Terenure. I just accepted this and for the second time that night left him standing on my porch as I locked the door and went to bed.

I was trying to sleep again, exhausted from the events of the night, when my father made his way to my room "Lauren you wanna sort out yer man he's after knocking into Brian's house".

Fecking Mallow. This character was after walking ten feet from my house and knocking into my neighbour's house at 4am, for reasons unbeknownst to me, was greeted by my neighbour shouting obscenities at him – rightly so. I refused to deal with him which left only one more option.

My dad resolved the whole situation with one phrase shouted from his bedroom window "Pal, the main road is that way, you'll get a taxi there."

And that was the last we have seen of Mallow. All this drama I dealt with while Aoife snored away – who, by the way, as it turned out had left her phone in McDonalds in her hunt for more chicken nuggets. Meaning we had to trek in the next day to collect it.

After that night I swore to myself I would never go to Coppers again, and that I would definitely never go to Mallow.

If you're intrigued by Lauren's eventful student life, check out her blog, uniqueestablishment.wordpress.com

Commuting: Not for the faint of heart

Nick Moloney

Web Editor

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College life in DIT wouldn't be the same if it didn't include catching a packed bus at 7:52am to make it in for a 9am lecture.

DIT proudly advertises Dublin's City Centre as its campus (until we move to Grangegorman) and rightly so. Dublin is one of the nicest cities in Europe; unfortunately, it is also the sixth most congested city.

A survey done by GPS company TomTom in 2013 placed Dublin as the sixth most congested city in Europe, and it ranked in the top 10 most congested in the world at the time.

What this means is drivers faced a delay of 43 minutes for every hour they spent in the car at peak times. More crucially this meant drivers with a 30-minute commute wasted 96 hours a year stuck in traffic jams (You don't get those hours back at the end).

Buses will also sit in this traffic. My usual commute on the 77A takes around 20 minutes to travel 10 kilometres down to Kevin Street. If I have to be in for a 9AM, that means falling out of the bed at 7am and catching the 7:50am bus.

It will then take roughly 50 minutes of breathing stale oxygen, and having my personal space invaded by backpacks and

shoulders pushing past me. Of course, I am partly to blame as I was born two meters tall and am probably not the most ideal candidate for public transport.

Regardless, I sighed deeply after reading in this year's census that nearly 200,000 commuters, (all of whom live in the commuter belt of Dublin) spend up to one hour a day just making their way to work.

But I would like to say that my commute began and ended on Dublin Bus. Unfortunately, it has spread to Irish Rail where I spend five hours a week moving between Dublin and Wexford.

This is on the same 'Irish Rail' that received roughly 1000 complaints last year. 498 of which were made against disorderly passengers; a humble number considering if I made a complaint every time I came across a disorderly passenger (someone I personally don't like the look or sound of) then the numbers could be trebled.

There are three ways I have discovered to combat these disorderly folks on both bus and train. Firstly, a good pair of earphones. More specifically, noise cancelling headphones. I am one of those unfortunate people who cannot tune out of people conversations, no matter how little I care about



The daily commute is a chore for many, students and workers alike //Carina Chen

what's for dinner, I now need to know! So the headphones will numb one of your three most vulnerable senses, hearing.

The second sensory nerve you will want to occupy is your sight. There is nothing more awkward than sitting beside someone who seems to have mistaken the bus for social hour at the pub (no I didn't see last night's game). In saying that, most people cover this part very well. A phone will cater to most needs; however, I do enjoy pushing myself to read books on public transport. Just to be different.

The third and most difficult sense to take care of is the sense of smell. Luckily our brain has us covered and will tell our smell receptors to stop sending messages of an odour that is lingering. This is so we don't exhaust our nervous system.

Commuting isn't easy and really does cause a lot of stress. We as a species do not like

change, yet I've never sat next to the same person twice on the bus.

Not only this, but it takes away a lot of our leisure time. However, I have found it easy to improve my commute by turning it into something more productive. Podcasts, books, news apps, music, meditation.

I now use it as my down time. I also go through periods of reading up on anything that interests me. At the moment there is no solution to Dublin's congestion. Thanks to the geniuses of early medieval Ireland, we have small, narrow inner city roads that were originally built for horse and cart. But don't make the commute harder for other people by being 'that guy'.

How not to get duffed buying records in Dublin

Kasper Delaney-Petersen

Production Sub-Editor

@kaspetersen

Buying records can be an amazing experience at the best of times. At the worst of times, you could end up spending your precious beer cash on some half-cracked, unplayable mess. Looks can be deceiving, especially when buying your music second-hand. And that is why...I, KD-Pie, shall teach you a few tricks of the trade to ensure you get those sweet deals, and musical fidelity.

Shop Around

The first step on your way to getting good music for dirt-cheap is, of course, to stay away from going to just one store. Sure, a bit of brand loyalty can go a long way, but charity shops, second-hand and vintage stores, as well as your average record specialist will allow you to get the most out of your money. As is the case with all of life's plans, there are quite a few drawbacks to keeping away from professional retailers. Which brings me to my next point:

CHECK EVERYTHING

This is by far the most important piece of advice anyone can give, and it took me quite a long while to figure it out myself (just because I'm an eejit). Once you find a good deal, make sure you check the quality of the vinyl and to see if what you're buying is actually what you wanted. If you really want to know why this is the most important tip, just see the picture. Checking your sleeves can be an excellent opportunity to find thirty year old bags of drugs too, that's why you



Records have seen something of a resurgence in recent years //Kasper Delaney-Petersen

should check out 'thingsifoundinrecords' on Instagram.

Blind Buy

'Blind buying' is a term myself and many others use to describe purchasing a record or any piece of music based solely upon the look of the cover - having never heard either the music inside, or of the artist that made it. Some of my favourite albums of all time have come about simply because I saw a picture of a bunch of long-haired metal dudes on the

back cover. Blind buying is also one of the best ways to ensure that your collection is both diverse in look and musical style. Always be wary of blind buying however, as you will end up with some absolute stinkers because of it.

Try to Save as Much Money as Possible

This tip can be given for anything really, but when it comes to building a collection of something, be it video-games, music, high-heels, or even multilingual bibles, the best thing you can do is save money to buy extra.

Sure, splashing out once in a while for that super-rare third-and-a-half pressing of Pope John Paul II Live in Drogheda (shout-out to co-ed "Dab" Grennan) can be great to ensure you love everything about your record shelf, but setting yourself back can lead to missing out. I would recommend checking prices on discogs.com if you are unsure whether or not €15 is a good deal. The only downside to checking prices online is the extra expenses like postage or import duty.

So, there you have it folks. I hope these tips will guide you to a better future of spotless vinyl and good tunes. Unfortunately, such is the deal when any shady individual gives you some advice, don't always take what I've said as fact. Collecting anything leads to problems exclusive to the individual. However, I've come up with these tricks after almost two years of collecting records, and even though new trials will arise, I've been blessed with this knowledge to pass onto the younglings. Keep it spinnin'.

CULTURE

Take Two

Here at The Edition we love movies. This month we have two visual epics. One is a sequel to a beloved sci-fi classic, and the other an innovative reinterpretation of a legendary artist's work. Read on to find out if they are worth your time

Mark McEvoy

I first watched Blade Runner: The Director's Cut as a 9-year-old child, lying on the ground in front of the television as my father detailed the vast improvements between this version and the theatrical release. I watched a visual masterpiece, questioning how they achieved such a futuristic feel, and also realising that this future was extremely dark and moody. My 9-year-old self could not fully appreciate a story of this depth – its post-apocalyptic themes connecting to important questions of identity, and what constitutes a life. Its sequel, Blade Runner 2049, is not quite as subtle. While it has lavish scenery, and impressive computer generated imagery, I just wasn't filled with the same wonder as my 9-year-old self.

K (Ryan Gosling) is a Blade Runner; tasked seeking out bio-engineered humans, called replicants, and 'retiring' them. Whilst doing his job, K finds the remains of a replicant who has given birth. He is tasked with finding the miracle child and destroying it before causing all-out war. At the same time Wallace (who has bought the Tyrell Corporation which manufactures replicants) and his super replicant Luv want to find the child themselves, so they can mass produce androids to meet growing demand.

Roger Deakins' cinematography is the true artwork of the piece – from the bleak, snowy confines of Sapper Morton (Dave Bautista) to the radioactive dystopian American cities filled with oversized statues and ghost like buildings. The images are vast and luscious but fail to cover up the holes in the plot and the painfully clichéd acting. This is coupled with sections blatantly taken from other films and the nauseating 'and then this happens' plot twists.

Gosling seems to be playing the same part sporadically since 2011: a moody morally ambiguous character who is conflicted and says very little, and when he does express himself it is in a monotone voice. This is a far cry from his challenging independent roles in 'Half Nelson' and 'Lars and the Real Girl'. K seems wooden and inconsequential. By the end I felt less for the character than I did at the beginning, which is a stunning feat considering the screen time he takes up.

The plot devices, mixed with the multitude of twists, left



me bored and uninterested. It was as if the writers were adding pieces as they were going along. Some of the twists also seemed unnecessary to the story, including the introduction of Deckard (Harrison Ford) which – like much of the film's storyline – is overly nostalgic. In one scene Wallace (Jared Leto) delivers an elongated and frivolous monologue which I can barely remember – in stark contrast to Rutger Hauer's monologue in the original, which I recall in its entirety – followed by a wonderful bit of nostalgia tinged computer imagery. That's Blade Runner 2049 in a microcosm.

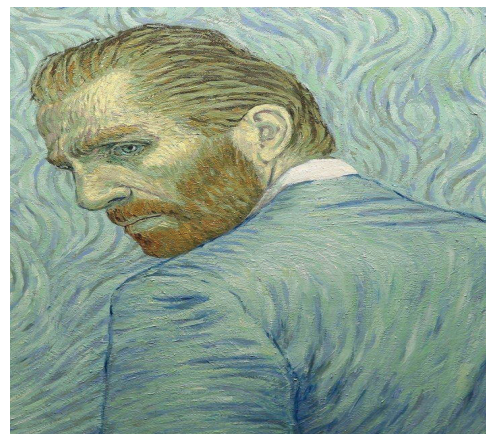
While this is not a bad film by any stretch of the imagination, it is not a very good one either. We live in an age where originality in filmmaking has been replaced by a need for nostalgia. Blade Runner 2049 is a film which is heavy on style and beauty, but low on substance and storytelling. Perhaps because this story – like so many others we see in big budget productions – was told already, a long time ago. And while it also oozed with style, the original Blade Runner maintained its ambiguity and sense of wonder, something the sequel sadly fails to do.

Photo credit // bladerunnermovie.com

Loving Vincent: Review

Robert Geoghegan

Loving Vincent has been described as an ambitious, and almost crazy undertaking. Made over seven years, directors Dorota Kobiela and Oscar-winner Hugh Welchman recreated the paintings of Vincent van Gogh with actors against green-screen, then employed 125 artists to paint over 62,450 frames.



Loving Vincent uses the art of van Gogh to tell the story of his last days //Facebook

The entire film is made from oil paintings in the style of Vincent van Gogh. This makes the film a visually stunning treat, and well worth a watch for all art lovers,

especially for fans of van Gogh. Cornfields shimmer and rustle with slight flickers of the impasto. The night sky sparkles and swirls. Unfortunately, not much else happens outside of Loving Vincent's visually aesthetic beauty.

A gaunt figure stumbles down a drowsy high street at twilight in the small French country town of Auvers. The man was carrying nothing; his hands clasped to a fresh bullet wound leaking blood from his belly. Loving Vincent tells that story.

Set in 1891, France, a year after Vincent van Gogh's apparent suicide, a young man Armand Roulin (Douglas Booth) tries to deliver a letter written by van Gogh (Robert Gulaczyk) to his brother. Loving Vincent tells the story of Armand's journey to deliver a letter written by the artist to his brother at the bequest of his father the postmaster.

While Armand was not particularly fond of the strange artist, his father had been a close friend who didn't quite understand what caused van Gogh's suicide. Armand pieces together the last six weeks of the artist's life by talking to those who



Saoirse Ronan is unrecognisable in her painted role //Facebook

surrounded him in that time. Armand is our unassuming detective trying to put together the last weeks of Van Gogh's life to better understand what led to his death.

Loving Vincent's story is simple, much like

the dialogue. There are no dramatic twists, and only a few humorous moments throughout. This biopic could've fallen flat on its face if it wasn't for the one thing that makes it truly spectacular; the art.

What to watch on Netflix

There's a lot of content on Netflix. So much so, that it's easy to just pick shows and movies you recognise, or ones that all of your mates recommend. But there is some great stuff out there that might glide over your head. Every month we'll pick out some choice cuts for you to enjoy when you're relaxing in between your intense bouts of study



American Vandal is a sharp, funny and touching satire //Netflix

American Vandal

Jesse Melia
Culture Editor
[@elmeliac](#)

On paper, it shouldn't work. American Vandal essentially sends up the recent trend of serious, investigative docu-dramas that are all the rage on Netflix. In the vein of shows like Making a Murderer and The Jinx, it's a detailed and comprehensive investigation of a controversial crime. Only the crime is that a high school student drew penises on the cars of the school's faculty.

That's a funny idea, an idea that would work well as a YouTube sketch, but not for a feature length film, or an eight-part TV series you'd think. And yet, Vandal manages to defy expectations because it actually doubles down on the absurdity, and fully immerses itself in the case with detached journalistic seriousness, which to heightens the comedy.

The show isn't laugh out loud hilarious, but it has a persistent humour that runs throughout. The jokes stem from the sheer absurdity of the situation and the high school's range of awkward and amusing characters.

It manages to balance the humour with a genuinely engrossing mystery. You wouldn't expect to be so emotionally involved in a case as absurd as this, and somehow the show manages to draw you in and make you invested in the story.

What really elevates the series is that it has surprising dramatic heft. As the story progresses, you really start to empathise with the lead character, the titular vandal Dylan Maxwell, as the stakes and consequences of his alleged criminality come to the fore. Other standout characters are the slithering and deceptive Alex Trimboli, and the intensely inappropriate 'cool' teacher Mr Kraz.

The actor portraying Maxwell, Jimmy Tatro, got his start making short, funny YouTube videos, and he definitely makes use of that skill set as the child-like and dopey high schooler. But he also gives a performance of surprising emotional depth, especially later in the show's run

as the stakes and seriousness rise.

If you've seen Making a Murderer or The Jinx, or even listened to the Serial podcast, you'll recognise how expertly the team behind American Vandal have satirised the ascendant True Crime genre. It has the super slick, weighty presentation; dramatic, cinematic music; and the straight-laced, serious narration. Again, the fact that it's presented in such a po faced manner, serves to elevate the show's almost absurdist humour.

In the classic Netflix mould, the show is maddeningly addictive. Season one is comprised of eight punchy, compact thirty minute episodes. And it's loaded with little plot twists and cliffhangers that continually draw you in. It's the kind of show that a lot of viewers will burn through in one or two sittings.

Last Chance U

Paul Hyland

UCO football's favourite team, EMCC (East Mississippi Community College), are back for another season of class-cutting, fist-pumping, learn-nothing entertainment as season 2 of Netflix' Last Chance U returns.

The documentary series that is set in East Mississippi follows the dramatic season of a junior college football team. College football is the lowest level of collegiate football in the US but this is a team full of superstars who have been kicked out of their former prestigious colleges for a wide range of violations - drugs, guns and brawls the holy trinity.

East Mississippi, however, offers these former up-and-comers a second chance to reach the holy grail of the NFL. If they can impress at this level, by beating the unfortunate teams- of sometimes skinny part-time athletes (think the towel boy scene from The Waterboy)- who come up against them, then they might get offered a place at a Division one college.

This is what EMCC head coach, and the series' main character, Buddy Stephens has told them. He did not, however, tell them about his lack of patients, his Jackel and Hyde personality (maybe due to the amount of chewing tobacco he stuffs in his mouth) and his arse-cheek clinching rage.

This is where the drama and comedy comes from in this highly recom-

mended docu-series. On one hand, you have Buddy, who humiliated himself in the first season by repeatedly flying off the handle, but then you ask yourself is it really his fault? As his players are flawed young men, with undeniable talent, but the propensity to be the greatest of wind-up merchants.

The format of each episode is roughly the same as you see the team train all week long and then the last 20-minutes or so is devoted to highlights from that week's game-including all the fighting on the sideline.

If you don't like American football or even sport you can still enjoy this series. They do lots of interviews with local supporters and it's touching to see how much this team means to people who are struggling to survive in a poor area of the US's bible belt.

If that still doesn't interest you, then consider the subplot to this whole series and even the series name. It really is the last chance in some of these young men's minds. On more than occasion, the players express how they never paid attention in school because they never entertained the idea of not being a professional athlete. The realisation that they are unprepared for any other life, on camera, is captivating and reflects wider societal issues.



For fans of American football and sport in general, Last Chance U is essential //Netflix

CULTURE

Music Society Revitalised

Jesse Melia

Culture Editor

@elmeliac

DIT's Musical Society, which was essentially defunct at the start of the academic year, has been brought back to life by a group of enterprising first years.

The society aims to do a performance showcase in Gleeson Hall, Kevin Street on the 23rd of October. The long term plan is to host a full musical show in the second semester, sometime around March or April.

A full musical is more difficult to set up due to rights issues. So the plan is to do a showcase that focuses on individual performances.

"Rehearsals have been going on for the past two weeks," says current chairperson Sasha Madden. "We couldn't get the rights for a full stage musical, so we decided to do a showcase. And Halloween is coming up so it's kind of perfect.

"It's a compilation of songs and dances from things like The Addams Family, The Rocky Horror Picture Show, Nightmare Before Christmas and all that kind of stuff," she continues.

They were eager to get a performance together quickly, in order to show people that the society was still active within the college. "We wanted to get started straight away, and start the year off with a bang," Ms Madden says.

While the committee is comprised solely of first years, the society's membership ranges from across all years and academic disciplines.

"The reason we set this up, is because we all love performing, we've always done it, and it's the best thing ever for us to be on stage," Ms Madden continues.

While the society is reasonably small – about 70 members – according to Ms Madden, that suits the needs of the group perfectly. With a smaller group, every member is able to have a tangible contribution.

There are plans to integrate other societies into the Musical Soc's performances. They hope to have the Makeup Society work on the showcase at the end of this month, and they want to bring in members of BIMM's Live Music Society to provide backing for the full show in 2018.

Aside from the live performances, the society plans to stay active with regular other activities. "When we're not rehearsing we're going to be doing things like stage anxiety workshops, vocal warmup workshops, and dancing. When we're not rehearsing we'll still be constantly doing stuff and getting people involved," Ms Madden says.

Book Review: Turtles All The Way Down

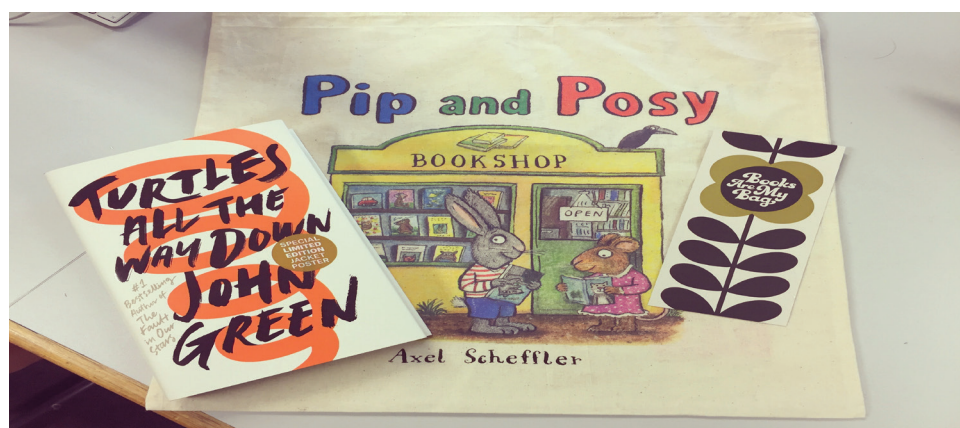
Jessica Keller

First things first, there is a tragic lack of turtles in this novel. It is important to share this sad news outright.

John Green's novel, 'Turtles All The Way Down' follows 16-year-old Aza whose life was never destined to follow the mystery of missing billionaire, Russell Pickett. However, with a substantial reward attached to it, Aza's best friend, Daisy is interested and Aza falls head first into the investigation. While trying to be good in every aspect of her life, Aza is struggling with the ever-tightening spiral of her own thoughts.

It has been five-and-a-half years since Green's last book was published, and the effort and thought put into this book is reflected by that length of time. This is another one of Green's novels that will be sitting in your bookshop's 'Young Adult' section but I can promise you now, it in no way reads like a teenager's book. The characters are teens and their stories occur during high school but much like his other novels, Green does not dumb down his writing to suit that audience.

As soon as we are introduced to Aza nothing in her life is hidden from us. We are instantly brought into how her life is surrounded by anxiety-ridden thought spirals. Although these spirals get more and more difficult to read as the storyline progresses, it only highlights how this mental illness



John Green's novel provides a touching insight into life with anxiety // Jessica Keller

gets increasingly difficult to live with the longer it thrives.

Green's past novels have covered difficult topics and Turtles All The Way Down is no exception. There is death, separation, and the questions of 'life' in its entirety. There is also the addition of usual Young Adult themes like friendship and love, but I promise you (and please trust me) they are not portrayed as a cliché in any way, shape or form. They link in tragically, but beautifully, with some unfortunate plot turns.

John Green's novels always have a very striking underlying message, of which shines through brightly in Turtles All The Way Down. Similarly to the majority of teenagers around the world, Aza's

life is hard. She is already juggling the struggles of young adulthood, but mixing in mental health with this, everything seems multiplied by a thousandfold. With that being said, Green shares the message with his audience that although life may be bad right now, it will one day get better. Your day will come and you just have to go on, it is important to constantly remember this.

In recent years, mental health is becoming a more discussed topic, and this is a piece of literature that the world needed. Talking about mental health is what was required to teach unaware people what having a mental illness is like, and this is a book we needed to do just that. Please, run out and pick up your copy if you haven't already.

Bram Stoker Festival Guide

Kasper Delaney-Petersen

Production Sub-editor

@kaspetersen

The next annual Bram Stoker Festival, which celebrates both Stoker's life and his infamously notorious novel, Dracula, will be held this October Bank Holiday Weekend, Friday 27th - Monday 30th.

The eponymous festival was "inspired by the heritage of [the] Dublin-born Gothic novelist", and was specifically organised to coincide with the beginning of Halloween for an extra-spooky weekend of thrills and delights, suitable for families, all-ages, "mates, dates and everything in between".

The festival is held by Dublin City Council and Fáilte Ireland and presented by

Schweppe Curtis Nunn Ltd. Together the organisers have promised an eclectic mix of events, from the blood-curdling to the fun and fantastic. The festival incorporates the entirety of the city, from a pop-up Victorian-esque theme park in Patrick's Cathedral, to a parade beginning in Moore Street, following both the broad and narrow streets of the Northside.

Over fifteen different locations and venues will be hosting events both day and night over the 4-day festival. There is something for everyone this year, from film screenings, to live music trails, workshops of the macabre and world

premieres.

Some of the highlights of this year's festival include: Stokerface, a free portrait exhibition in Jervis Street Shopping Centre; BRAM Audio Ghost Experience, in which you will be led all over the city to experience the horrors of the "classically creepy works of the legendary Bram Stoker". The interesting thing about this event is that it is an audio tour, which can be downloaded for free from the festival website; We Are the Monsters, a play which delves into the recesses of our minds, giving a "name for the nameless and a dark dissection of how horror can help us process the world we live in today"; the world premiere of Whitby, in the Smock Alley Theatre, another play based heavily on the Dracula novel, recounting the Count's journey by ship from Romania to the port of Whitby; and finally the world-famous Macnas parade, a performance of the group's 'Memory Song', in which the city will be "transfixed as the transcendental, the macabre, the profane and the magical is unleashed".

There are many more events taking place, for the young, the young at heart, and those looking for a truly terrifying and mature experience, with full details for each event available on the official festival website.



This year's festival promises a range of fang-tastic fun // Facebook

Hockey team to host Inter-Varsities

MARCUS BLAKE AND ALANNAH CARRAGHER

DIT Hockey Club returned to the field for the first time since their All Ireland Mixed Intervarsity Success last February as the Mens and ladies sides played out 2 friendlies against Dublin rivals IT Tallaght in Glennane Park last Wednesday.

Up first were the men who raced into a 2-0 lead with Irish Universities Representative Matt Treacy and fresher Ivan Cooke scoring early on. Tallaght weren't phased by the early onslaught and returned with a double quick fire to pull the scores level just before the break. Shortly after the interval Tallaght took the lead, scoring a 4th soon after as the home side continued to cause DIT plenty of problems in defence.

With 10 minutes to play DIT found a way back and Neil McDermott saw his shot deflected home to make the score 4-3 entering the final phases. However with 2 minutes to play Tallaght sealed their win with another well taken finish, and despite James Northover grabbing a consolation goal, it wasn't enough to deny the home side. ITT Men 5 - DIT Men 4.

DIT ladies faired out better against their south west Dublin rivals making a real statement of intent prior to the Intervarsities later this month. The girls started brightly with Fresher Bella Murphy opening

the scoring, quickly followed by Irish University's representative Sophie Barnwell's opening goal of the season. The ladies continued to press forward and Jane Foxton finished well from close range to put the ladies 3-0 up at half time. With time running out Shannon Smullen put some gloss

Both Squads now look forward to the All Ireland Hockey Intervarsities

on the the scoreline making it 4-0 before Tallaght grabbed a consolation a couple of minutes from time. 4-1 the final score to DIT.

Both Squads now look forward to the All Ireland Hockey Intervarsities which DIT Hockey Club are proudly hosting in Three Rock Rovers. DIT Men will hope its Fifth time lucky as they aim to put 4 Final defeats in a row behind them and claim the Prestigious Mauritius Cup for the first time, while DIT Ladies will compete in the Chilean Cup for the first time following their promotion victory in the Plate competition last year.

On the 28th of October 36 DIT students will be heading up to Three Rock Rovers to take part in intervarsities until the 30th of October. It's been an exciting few weeks preparing, going through a number of trials, getting to know each other and playing friendlies to prepare. With our amazing coach David Keogh, manager Marcus Blake and captains Alannah Carragher and Matt Tracey we are ready to bring back silverware once again.

As hosts, the women will be first to kick things off in the Chilean Cup against Trinity College. Upon winning the plate last year the women will be put to the test by trinity at 9am and queens on Sunday, with the goal of reaching the final. The men set out to better their previous result of runners up, facing trinity at 11 am and CIT at 3pm, in the group stages.

DIT will be hosting 24 teams over the course of the weekend, from all around Ireland. With 12 teams playing in the men and women's plate and 12 teams in the cup respectively.

With a number of players on scholarship it looks set to be an exciting weekend. Over the weekend we have a number of social events planned including a night out in Coppers, with each team coming in there best Halloween costume. It looks set to be an amazing weekend for all involved!



(Above) DIT Hockey Team Photo Credit: Sophie Barnwell

Rugby team carries win over DCU

JESSICA NÍ MHÁIRTÍN

The DIT rugby team played DCU last week in division one and won 64-17.

Herbie McClelland, DIT rugby manager explained that this year's group is definitely one of the toughest and the reason for that is because some colleges specialise in the sport.

He said, "The lads in Carlow are doing this as part of their course. They train with weights in the morning and they're out again in the afternoon. They're together four days a week. When you compare that to our rugby lads, we only train for an hour a week.

"All of our students are doing different courses but Carlow would be very organised. Athlone would be the same so it's a very tough division to be in. It's definitely a tough group that we're in. We've a good group of players and a lot of top players too, some of which on scholarship."

Looking ahead, the men are out next week to play the Garda College. The Garda College would be known best for their physicality across the board in all the sports they participate in.

"We're playing the Garda College next wednesday. The problem with the guards is that our team ranges from the age of about 19 to 21 or 22 but their team they could be around 24 or even 27. They could be any age.

"They made the final last year so they're very good. They're big, they're strong and they're tough, as you would imagine. It will be a close game but if I have everybody on board, I expect a good performance by the team and that's all I'm looking for because we're a very tough group.

"We do have very tough players and on the day if we can get them out we'll give them all a good game," said Herbie.



TRAINING TIMES

Males & Females player required for Matches, Blitz's, Tri Series and lots of socialising!

Wednesday 18:00 - 20:00 @ DIT Grangegorman, Pitch 4

Must bring gumshield and Shinguards. Sticks can be provided.

All levels are welcome to join, from beginners to advanced.

For more information:

- Marcus 085 708 7851
- Allanah 087 316 8779
- hockey@dit.ie
- DIT Hockey Club

To find out more www.dit.ie/sport



Latest Results

Men's Football

Junior Footballers:
DIT 3-17 to DCU 1-8
Senior Footballers in Coolock Div 1
DIT 0-12 DCU0-15
Fresher A Footballers In Maynooth:
DIT 1-11 MU1-18
Div 3 Football in Santry
DIT 2-12 TCD 1-09

Hurling

Fresher Div 1:
DIT 3-12 NUIG 1-17
Senior Div 1:
UCD 0-16 v DITGAA 1-17

Camogie

Senior Div 1:
DIT 3-10 UCD 2-12

Fixtures

Men's Football

24th Oct, Div 1:
DIT vs IT Carlow (carlow, 19:00)
26th Oct, Div 3:
DIT vs NUIG (Grangegorman, 19:00)

Intermediate

6th Nov:
UCD vs DIT (Belfield, 19:00)

Freshers

24th Oct, Div 2:
DCU vs DIT (St Pat's GAA Pitch, 14:00)
25th Oct, Div 1:
DCU vs DIT (DCU, 17:30)

HURLING

Senior

23th Oct, Div 1:
DIT v DCU (O'Toole's GAA, 19:30)
26th Oct, Div 3:
Marino v DIT (DCU 19:00)

Intermediate

26th Oct:
DIT v UCD (Grangegorman, 19:00)
2nd Nov:
DCU v DIT (DCU, 19:00)
9th Nov:
IT Carlow v DIT (Carlow, 19:00)

Fresher

9th Nov Div 1:
DIT v Maynooth (Grangegorman, 19:00)



(Above) DIT beat TCD in Div 3 Football out in Santry//DIT GAA
(Below) DIT Ladies Gaelic Football team at their first challenge match against Trinity //Áine Cummins



Ladies lose in one-point game

JESSICA NÍ MHÁIRTÍN

DIT Ladies Gaelic Football Team lost their first league game in Belfield to UCD second team last week.

A controversial decision by the referee made some DIT players question the score at the end of the game as a shot taken by Cavan player Brónagh Sheridan was first marked as a point, then was changed to a wide ball by the referee after conversing with the UCD umpire.

The game was very quick and DIT lead the way until the second half. UCD did however had the opportunity to score a lot more as there was a penalty awarded and they settled for a point instead of taking the chance on goalkeeper Catherine Murphy.

The manager of the DIT side, Seán O'Reilly said, "it's very tough losing in those circumstances but it will be worth it to learn from our mistakes

and it helps up to improve. There were so many positives from the game as we were strong defensively and some of our forward play and scores were incredible.

"Realistically, it was our first competitive game and the first time we had everyone available so next week we'll go back at it again and prepare for the Garda game."

"Our game against the Garda is a big game because it leads up to the league semi-final and it also means that we could get a home draw for the Lynch Cup.

"Last year the conditions against the guards were very tough and the pitch was barely playable but both teams put on a great display of football".

The game against the Garda College will take place in Parnells GAA club, Coolock on Monday.



Orla Beagan after the game against UCD // DIT GAA



Sarah Nulty clearing from DIT defence// Abaigael Woods

Plotting for ladies

JESSICA NÍ MHÁIRTÍN DIT's

Snooker and Pool team has been a male dominated club until this academic year as Stephanie McDermott is changing things at the pool hall.

Stephanie has called for any ladies who are interested in pool to get together and form a team as the game is very close to her heart, she explains, "I'm playing pool since I was a kid. It's one of my fondest childhood memories as it's something that my father taught me and we spent a lot of time playing pool together over the years."

There is no particular level that you have to be at to join the new ladies pool team, all Stephanie is looking for from her new members is dedication as she would love to find other ladies that share the same interest as herself.

"I'm not a professional. This is my final year in college and before I leave DIT I want to do something, aside from academic study, that I am so passionate about. I knew DIT hadn't got a women's pool team so I think that this is some-

thing that would benefit me as far as organisation and life skills go and it's something that will also benefit the college too as it will open a pathway for any ladies who wish to play in the future."

Downstairs in Aungier Street there is a place where anyone can go to relax and have a few friendly games of pool with their friends. This is where Stephanie said she spends most of her time outside of classes, so if you have a few minutes spare you could easily head down and practice your pool technique.

"The biggest challenge would be to find these women who are as passionate as me. Some people are quite shy and do not want to show off their talents so with the right help, and the right push, we can make something amazing happen," said Stephanie.

If you would like to join either team you can contact the DIT Snooker and Pool Facebook page, or email them at snooker@dit.ie. If you wish to contact Stephanie directly, you can contact her at stephaniemcdermott213@gmail.com.



DIT's Champions League

CARAGH O'BUACHALLA

The men's 5-a-side soccer Champions League started on Wednesday October 4th in DIT Grangegorman from 5.30 – 7pm. This programme is running for 5 weeks. Grab some classmates, or just get

in touch to be put on a team, it's all about fun and getting involved. Check out DIT Sports Facebook Page/ DIT Sports website for more details.



Here come the girls!

JESSICA NÍ MHÁIRTÍN AND NIKKI MURPHY

The new program 'Get Girls Active' set up by the DIT Sports Office and the Fit2Go club is to encourage girls to participate in sports of all kind.

Male domination is across the board in all sports here in DIT and the main aim of this program is to help girls engage in sporting activities within the college atmosphere. Caragh O'Buachalla is a Sports Officer in DIT and she has been heavily involved in the coordination of the program.

"Female participation levels are low in general in DIT sports clubs, there was a chance to put a proposal together to get seed funding from Campus Life for initiatives to increase participation," said Caragh.

After meeting with groups of female students and following extensive research there was a proposal sent forward to Campus Life to seek funding for the program. The research found that there was very little emphasis on female-only activities and the feedback from the girls that were contacted

showed a pattern that most girls that wanted to get involved in sports were too intimidated by the ratio of males to females.

"One of the main issues that was cropping up time and time again was that they are intimidated in mixed classes and activities, they don't want to commit to an ongoing Club activity and didn't want to travel, so we put together a 6 week programme of activities that the girls said would be of interest to them.

"All our Clubs are male dominated. Unfortunately we need more resources to fund more recreational activities, but watch this space for more intramural type activities throughout the year."

In this particular program, all fitness levels have been taken into account and it is heavily focused on participation as opposed to competitiveness, however, an elite level is also catered for and can be approached from either a competitive perspective or a more relaxed angle and that makes the program very appealing to the girls across

all campuses.

"Our Clubs programmes cater from beginners to elite, while the girls get to know each other they can buddy up and try out some of the Clubs - overcoming the intimidation of joining a club on their own. They have an amazing opportunity to try out activities at an affordable price that they wouldn't normally get a chance to try ie Diving Courses, Climbing Wall, Karting, Wakeboarding, Kitesurfing, Sailing lessons etc.," Caragh added.

When the six-week programme has been completed, all coordinators will review the engagement and progression of the 'Get Girls Active' programme and if there is a positive result, the DIT Sports Office and Fit2Go club will definitely look into expanding the programme in partnership with Campus Life.

For more information on the programme you can contact the Sports Office on 014023042, or you can email matthew.lysaght@dit.ie for more information.



DIT and Maynooth showing racism the red card before kick off. Photo Credit: Matthew Lysaght

Facilities a must for competing



DIT's Volleyball team ready for an exciting year ahead //Arnie Sivercovs

PATRICK KOSKA

DIT's volleyball team have progressed hugely over the last 3 years, Patrick Koska gives us an insight into their sport and what it's like as an upcoming team in DIT:

We currently have two teams that have entered into the league, both women's team and men's team. From what we know it's the first time in about 15-20 years that DIT has entered a volleyball team into a proper league and this is thanks to slow progress and emphasis that we have been putting on local DIT players that will be here for 3 or more years.

We slowly try to improve their skills by making sure that they are the future and core of our teams. It looks like we will also have 4 recreational teams that will take part in cup competitions later on in the year. These teams consist of 6 players 3 girls and 3 boys on each team.

In the league that we have entered, we will play teams such as Trinity, Carlow IT, UCD, Dundalk IT, Maynooth and Tallaght IT. It's the same for men's and women's. It's a big step for us as there was no DIT team in the league for years.

Another competition that the squads will enter is the east regional recreational tournament that takes place in Dundalk every year and this will be our 3rd year in a row entering this competition. We started entering it when this committee had taken over 3 years ago. Another definite competition is a cup mixed competition in Gormanstown. It's an event that takes place over two weekends.

Upcoming events would include our first league matches starting in November and recreational league in February. As well as that we try to have social events where we try to have as much team bonding and socialising as we can. We will be waiting for the volleyball referee courses and basic coaching courses. Last year 3 of our members have taken coaching course and they helped at trainings and this year they are very useful when it comes to helping beginners.

DIT currently does not have their own sports hall where we could train and the halls that we currently use are not up to the standards and do not meet international rules net wise or floor security. As

well as that, the floor in one of the halls that we use in Belvedere College is in an extremely poor state and even though we have made managers aware of this for years, nothing has been done. It's lucky that nobody got injured so far as there is an actual metal plate sticking out.

Another venue that we use is Larkin College where nets are not secured to the ground like they should be according to international rules. Another issue that we had up until last year was lack of basic equipment such as balls. We depended on our coach to bring his personal equipment so we could train.

Luckily last year DIT have bought us our own sets. We were promised that Grangegorman hall will be finished as soon as possible and hopefully when this happens we will have a strong competitive team that will be able to make the most of those facilities.

The biggest challenge that we face is finding a home venue that meets all the international rules for our home matches as we don't have our own. So far there hasn't been much luck trying to find it but

hopefully we can sort it out soon. Lack of our own facilities is also a big one and like I mentioned before, the halls that we train in are not exactly of highest standards and nets are not of proper height.

We have set ourselves few goals for this year. We will try to win east recreational tournament as we have come 2nd for the past 2 years. We will try to go to next stage of the league although it's a big challenge. Hopefully we can attract more first year players that never tried this sport before and that they will love it as much as we do.

We will have to pass on the committee to new members this year as most of us are graduating, this is why we are currently teaching new members on how to run the club and try to get them involved as much as we can.